Daily Report

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Reportage on Regional Foreign Ministers' Meeting

Honduras Wants 'Demobilization'

PA3103165989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1402 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] San Jose, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—This Thursday Honduras proposed to the Central American foreign ministers a plan calling not only for the demobilization of the Nicaraguan contras but also for the demobilization of the Salvadoran guerrillas who operate in border areas that the two countries claim for themselves.

A Honduran diplomatic source who asked to remain anonymous has advised ACAN-EFE that Honduras has suggested that the demobilization of the anti-Sandinist rebels coincide with the ending of the $45 million in humanitarian aid that the United States recently proposed for the contras.

The U.S. aid, which will be distributed at the rate of $4.5 million per month, is scheduled to end in February 1990, when Nicaragua is to hold general elections in compliance with its previously made commitment to do so. The source said: "Honduras cannot ask that the contras be demobilized, repatriated, or relocated overnight because the fighters and their relatives would try to occupy other regions of the country and would become a threat to Honduran security as well as a heavier load on the country."

In eastern Honduras, there are approximately 11,000 contra fighters with their families, a total of approximately 37,000 persons. To this can be added the 25,000 refugees who are cared for by the UN Office of High Commissioner for Refugees.

The source said that the Honduran Government "is not interested" in having the contras in its territory and reiterated that the "humanitarian aid" that Washington has approved "represents a guarantee of security" for the country, in which the anti-Sandinists have been operating since 1981.

Honduras also proposed that the five Central American governments agree to demobilize, repatriate, or relocate the Salvadoran guerrillas who occupy several of the seven territorial areas over which El Salvador and Honduras have had a dispute since 1969, the year in which the Salvadoran and Honduran Armies waged a 100-hour war.

"We do not want any irregular force like the Salvadoran guerrillas and the contras to remain in our territory," he said.

He added that "Honduras is willing to comply with the Esquipulas II peace agreement as well as the agreement signed in El Salvador in February, but we want everyone to understand that we are faced with a serious and delicate problem on our borders that we would like to resolve as soon as possible and through suitable mechanisms."

Asked about what would happen if Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica rejected the Honduran proposal, the source responded: "Ask the United States what role it would adopt because it is the country providing the money."

He said that Honduras "is not prepared to have the contras in its territory for another year or for an indefinite period of time."

"We want the contras and the Salvadoran guerrillas operating in our territory demobilized, and we would like each country to contribute to the achievement of pacification, peace, and development in Central America," he reiterated.

Before Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto heard the Honduran proposal, he told ACAN-EFE that he believed Honduras would make a "positive proposal" and that Honduras would comply with the commitments it has made.

In D'Escoto's view, the "contra" demobilization issue is the "leading topic" at the Central American foreign ministers' meeting, which is scheduled to conclude today in the Costa Rican capital, but for some of the other diplomats the most important issue is "democratization."

Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez, who declined to go into details regarding the proposal he presented to his Central American colleagues, arrived in San Jose accompanied by three advisers, among whom were two Armed Forces officers.

Arias: 'Democratization' Top Issue

PA3103180789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1632 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] San Jose, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican President Oscar Arias said today that "democratization should be the top issue at any meeting whose goal is achieving peace" in the region and that in Nicaragua "there are things to be done" in the field of democracy.

The demobilization of Nicaraguan "contras" operating in Honduras "is important" for Central America's pacification, but that should not be the only topic discussed because "there are things to be done in Nicaragua" before democratization can be achieved, the Costa Rican president stressed.

Arias spoke and dined last night with the five Central American foreign ministers who are currently attending the "Esquipulas II" Peace Plan Executive Commission's eighth meeting. The peace plan was signed in August 1987 and ratified in Costa Rica in January 1988.

Diplomatic sources report that Arias stressed the need to simultaneously advance the "contra" demobilization process and the pledges made by the Nicaraguan Government.

Oscar Arias, creator of the Central American peace plan, said that Nicaragua's internal democratization "is not an easy task" for that country since "for many decades it has not been accustomed to free elections."

Without going into further detail, the Costa Rican president announced that his Venezuelan counterpart, Carlos Andres Perez, told him by telephone on Thursday that his government is interested in participating in the mission that the United Nations will send to Central America to supervise the region's borders.

The Central American foreign ministers meeting in San Jose have expressed support for the UN plan.

The UN mission will be sent at the request of the Central American governments after it has been approved by the Security Council. The UN mission will consist of delegations from Spain, Canada, the FRG, and a Latin American country.

Arias added that the political verification issue included in the meeting's agenda "is very important since peace requires not only words but deeds as well," and such mechanisms guarantee action.

Arias stressed that he does not expect a reaction from any of the foreign ministers for reiterating that democratization is fundamental to achieve peace in the area.

Nicaragua Stresses Demobilization

PA3103195889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1922 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] San Jose, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaragua reasserted today in San Jose that its democratization process "is irreversible and independent" of the process to demobilize the Nicaraguan contras.

Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco, who is accompanying Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, said that the Sandinist government will not agree to have armed contra fighters come to Nicaragua and try to participate in the political process.

He added that if Honduras wants to it can keep the contras or send them to the United States, which has been giving political and economic support to the Nicaraguan resistance since 1981.

Tinoco is a member of the Nicaraguan delegation attending the meeting of the Esquipulas II Executive Commission. The meeting will end today in San Jose.

The Nicaraguan delegation, which is headed by D'Escoto, reiterated in San Jose that the most important aspect of the Central American foreign ministers meeting, which began Thursday, is the demobilization of the contras. This point was agreed to at the regional summit held in February in San Salvador.

Agreement on UN Observers

PA3103134489 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1223 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] The Central American foreign ministers's meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, has caught the attention of the world. The Central American foreign ministers agreed yesterday on the proposal for United Nations military observers to watch Central American borders. The announcement was made by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto.

At the conclusion of the first round of meetings, which lasted approximately 1 hour [as heard], Madrigal Nieto said the discussion on verification of the political situation in each country will continue.

The five foreign ministers, who held the meeting in the presence of UN adviser Alvaro de Soto, approved the proposal calling for the United Nations to send military observers to supervise the Central American region borders, Madrigal Nieto told AP at the conclusion of the first meeting.

Madrigal Nieto had said a few days ago that military observers would not be necessary on the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border because it has been demonstrated that there is no problem with war but with smuggling and drug trafficking, and that the two countries have already created a patrol commission to deal with that.

The countries that would supervise the borders are the FRG, Spain, Canada, and a Latin American country to be named later.

Madrigal Nieto said the military observers would mainly patrol the Honduran-Nicaraguan border, the Honduran-Salvadoran border, and the Nicaraguan-Salvadoran Gulf of Fonseca border region, which is where the Salvadoran guerrillas allegedly receive arms.

It has not been said when the military observers would be sent, but Guillermo Solis, chief of the Costa Rican cabinet, said it would be fairly soon.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto said yesterday in San Jose that the demobilization of the contras is the main issue to be discussed at the Central American foreign ministers meeting.

D'Escoto's point of view contrasts with that of other participants who view democratization as the main issue. D'Escoto said that at the meeting of the Esquipulas II executive commission, no one will be asking any country for explanations, but for results.

A few hours earlier, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Madrigal Nieto had cautioned that if this meeting is to be successful, it must demand that Nicaragua explain what it has accomplished and what it plans to accomplish by 25 April, the deadline for complying with democratization promises.

The Nicaraguan foreign minister said he went to San Jose prepared to point out his country's compliance with commitments, including the release of almost 2,000 former Somozist guards, a measure that resulted from a commitment made by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega at the summit meeting held in February in El Salvador.

D'Escoto also said Nicaragua is complying with its offer to hold elections in February 1990 and to initiate talks with the opposition to study the possibility of reforming the electoral and media laws.

Further on Approval of UN Group

PA0104015489 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0029 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Excerpts] San Jose, 31 Mar (DPA)—The Central American foreign ministers meeting ended tonight with the approval of a UN observers' military force to arrive in Central America within the next few weeks.

Foreign Ministers Mario Palencia of Guatemala, Ricardo Acevedo of El Salvador, Carlos Lopez Contreras of Honduras, Miguel D'Escoto of Nicaragua, and Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto of Costa Rica met at the Herradura Hotel, 8 km from San Jose, for 2 days. The results of this meeting were announced at a news conference held tonight.

There was a consensus to accept the UN proposal to send approximately 100 military observers to the Central American region. These observers will focus their attention on the so-called "sensitive" zones, meaning the Honduran-Nicaraguan border and the Honduran-Salvadoran border, near the bridge over Amatillo River.

Regulations on the specific tasks that these military observers will carry out will be drafted later. [passage omitted]

There were profound differences between Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras and Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto regarding how to implement the agreement signed by the five Central American presidents on "demobilizing the contras" located near the Honduran-Nicaraguan border.

While Honduras insists that this task must be carefully planned by the five Central American governments, Foreign Minister D'Escoto maintains that "the demobilization must be done as soon as possible, within 45 days at the latest."

Madrigal Nieto, Acevedo, and Palencia noted that "there should be a certain degree of simultaneity in the contra demobilization and the democratization process." To summarize, democratization and demobilization must be carried out in parallel and simultaneously.

The foreign ministers also studied the possibility of another meeting of Central American presidents, which had been postponed until May or June. The dates for the meeting will be announced shortly. Madrigal Nieto, the host foreign minister, said: "I think that the meeting was fruitful, although we did not reach a consensus on all the matters we discussed."

Agreement on Security Matters

PA3103203089 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1855 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Mario Carmona report from the Herradura Hotel in San Jose; recorded]

[Text] According to a statement by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto, an agreement has been reached on a letter requesting that verification and security plans of the Central American countries be pursued. The letter is to be sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

At the latest session of the Central American foreign ministers' Executive Commission here in San Jose, at which the Esquipulas II Agreement is being discussed, Nicaragua presented a long report in which it noted that it has complied extensively with the San Salvador agreements, Foreign Minister Madrigal Nieto has reported.

Honduran Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras has also said that it is possible that the date of the next presidential summit meeting will be changed but that no definite decision has been made. For this reason, he would not give any details on what had been discussed in this regard.

Nicaraguan democratic opposition groups have urged the Central American foreign ministers to present a proposal calling for reforms to the electoral law in Nicaragua so that there are guarantees of free, pluralistic, and honest elections in the country. This proposal was addressed to President Daniel Ortega.

Julio Ruiz Quezada of the Conservative Party of Nicaragua provided some details on this proposal.

[Begin Ruiz Quezada recording] This proposal is directed at Nicaraguan President Ortega. It represents an opportunity for him to comply with what he has been promising throughout Central America and the world.

The proposal is for the formation of an electoral tribunal that should be as pluralistic and well-balanced—as the El Salvador document states—as possible, so that all the parties are represented on the tribunal and so that the

elections are free and honest. For example, we demand that two members of the Supreme Electoral Council be opposition party members, that two others be members of the government, and that there be one impartial member to be appointed by the National Reconciliation Commission. This commission, as everybody knows, was formed as a result of the Esquipulas II Agreement. We want to strengthen this commission because, in our opinion, it is pluralistic and well balanced. [end recording]

This document, which was presented today to Commander Ortega, says that no active duty soldier should participate in politics or hold positions in the electoral apparatus and should not be a candidate for any public office.

Mr Ruiz said he believes that it is highly unlikely that Nicaragua will agree to the terms of this document since it is not really interested in democratization.

Meeting Ends

PA0104030089 Paris AFP in Spanish
0220 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Excerpt] San Jose, 31 Mar (AFP)—Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo announced that today, the five Central American foreign ministers ended their 2-day meeting, only reaching agreements on the verification of regional security matters.

Acevedo asserted that, at the last minute, the foreign ministers did not reach agreements on the political verification of the Esquipulas II agreements or on the commitments made at the presidential summit held in Costa del Sol, El Salvador. Sources close to the meeting had initiallly said that the foreign ministers would reach agreements on those issues.

Acevedo said that the political verification of the commitments will be discussed at subsequent meetings. [passage omitted]

Cuba

Reportage on Gorbachev's Official Visit

Castro on Soviet Relations

AU0204194989 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 1-2 Apr 89 p 3

[Report on "exclusive" interview with President Fidel Castro by Monica Riedler in Havana: "We Want Success and Can Speak Frankly"; date not given]

[Text] Havana—"We had good contacts with all Soviet leaders, but our contact with Gorbachev is particularly good. We are expecting a great deal from this visit." Fidel Castro, who was ready to grant an exclusive interview to DIE PRESSE at 3 o'clock in the morning, denies reports about tensions between Cuba and the Soviet Union, or between his course and that of the Soviet state leader who will pay a visit to his country from Sunday [2 April] to Wednesday [5 April].

Conflicts, which some would like to see, are neither good for Cuba nor for the Soviet Union. "We want success, and can talk frankly with each other. I think Gorbachev will feel very good in our country," Castro states.

Half a million "of the capital's working people" are to welcome the leader of the Soviet fraternal nation and his wife Raisa on Sunday on behalf of the Cuban people and will wave the traditional flags while the couple travels from the airport to the city center. The visit is being organized by the "Committee for the Defense of the Revolution" (CDR), which will certainly ensure that undesirable banners will quickly disappear before the visitor catches sight of them. Demonstrations that were immediately dispersed by the policy have furnished proof of the enthusiasm of young Cubans for Moscow's reform course. The children and grandchildren of the Cuban Revolution are calling for improvements, reforms, and the relaxation of the strict regime in the 31st year of the Revolution.

However, 63-year-old Castro brushes aside such ideas. Dressed as usual in his green combat uniform and wearing polished civilian boots, he stresses the differences between the systems: "Socialism in this island cannot be the same as socialism in the Soviet Union, just as palm trees do not grow there and the tundra does not exist here."

In addition to that, he elaborated on other "differences between the systems:" "We cannot correct mistakes of the Stalin era because we did not have any. We made other mistakes for which we must find our own solutions."

One such solution is being advocated under the slogan "correction of mistakes and undesirable developments". However, the drive that was first launched in February 1986 at the Third Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba—youth cadres met with the leader at the time and confronted him with their criticism and wishes—has not entailed any consequences so far. Castro does not really want to talk about it.

How does he assess the chances for normalizing relations with the United States? "There is no normalization, but we talk about specific issues, such as about Angola at present. This is positive."

"I Do Not Want To Help Bush Win the Next Elections"

However, Castro does admit that the new U.S. President George Bush is more pragmatic and less dogmatic. "I have been told that he is not so much influenced by ideological statements." It remains to be seen, however, whether the U.S. President is objective enough, willing, and able to solve problems, Castro emphasizes. Then he adds, laughing: "This is enough. I am not interested in praising Bush or in supporting him during the next elections."

The interview came about at the end of 3 hours of discussions on the occasion of a dinner at the Austrian Embassy in Havana. The dinner was given by Ambassador Parisini for former Interior Minister Karl Blecha and leading officials of the Cuban Government.

Fidel Castro had neither announced his visit nor did anybody expect him to come. He obviously enjoyed the surprise of the participants at the dinner when he suddenly arrived at 2245 hours. The dictator was particularly relaxed and affiable that evening. He only seemed to feel uneasy every now and then because of the presence of the DIE PRESSE correspondent, but he did not hold back several statements about the superfluousness of journalists at dinners like this.

In a monologue-like talk with the Austrian visitor—Blecha described his visit to Cuba as "purely private"—Castro spoke about topics ranging from Angola to the Middle East, the indebtedness of the Third World to the development of tourism in Cuba, from the training of young people in Cuba—a combination between school and work—to the question why blacks have not scored any records in swimming so far. "Maybe we can work out a training system with the East Germans," Castro stated.

He spoke extensively about the attack on the Bay of Pigs. In 1961 exiled Cubans tried to snatch the country from Castro and his fellow fighters with the help of the CIA, and suffered a stinging defeat. Castro even drew a sketch of the decisive attack and of the defense strategy. The sheet of paper was immediately confiscated by the official who accompanied Castro and who had also recorded the conversation. "We need this for our archive."

Castro then mentioned Gorbachev's visit once more. He would like to show his visitor more of the island, but this requires complicated arrangements with at least 200 members of the Soviet secret police, and this takes too long.

That it is particularly Castro who makes fun of the security cordon around Gorbachev seems slightly weird. No ordinary citizens in the Caribbean island know today where and how the uncontrolled leader lives—for security reasons, according to official information. Thus, nobody knows where the three black German limousines with Castro and his security forces on board appeared from suddenly, and where they disappeared to later.

Jose Viera Linares, first deputy foreign minister, who is increasingly frequently entrusted with the tasks of Foreign Minister Isodor Malmierka Peoli, who has health problems, explained that the reason why Castro does not travel abroad very often was security. However, "he would like to pay a visit to Austria and a number of other countries," Linares told DIE PRESSE.

Linares also hinted that Cuba, which also wants to open itself up at home, is interested in cooperating with Austria in the field of tourism by establishing joint ventures.

PRAVDA on Visit

FL3103183589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] The PRAVDA newspaper said today that the trip to Cuba and Gorbachev's talks with Cuban President Fidel Castro will raise bilateral ties to new heights in all areas.

The Soviet press also carried an article on the Cuban leader entitled, "Comrade Fidel." The article was written by former Soviet Ambassador to Havana Aleksandr Kapto, who is now head of the Ideological Department of the CPSU. Everyone knows Fidel Castro as a fervent internationalist, defender of the interests of the Third World, and relevant leader of the nonaligned countries, says Kapto. Throughout his entire life, adds Kapto, Fidel Castro was and continues to be a friend of the Soviet Union.

The common denominator of the significant notes carried by the Soviet press is the reaffirmation of friendship and cooperation and the fact that the characteristics of each nation and process is no obstacle to them.

Officials Grant News Conference

FL3103180889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Good afternoon, esteemed viewers of the 1300 National Television Newscast. We are here at the press center in the Habana Libre Hotel where Nikolay Yefimov, deputy chairman of the Ideological Department of the CPSU, and Gennadiy Gerasimov, spokesman of the USSR Foreign Ministry, and other Soviet personalities granted a news conference which just ended just a few moments ago.

Yefimov began the news conference with an extensive briefing on the recently concluded electoral process in the USSR and he stressed the historic importance of this act because, despite the difficulties within the process itself, the CPSU sees it as being positive because of its importance to the country's social life. The deputy chairman said that the people participated extensively in electing deputies to the USSR Supreme Soviet and he added that more than 15 percent of the deputies are women; a figure which could be increased.

Of the more than 500 journalists who are accredited to attend Gorbachev's visit, those present at the news conference questioned the Soviet leaders and personalities on such topics as the current situation in that brother country, the purpose and content of the discussions between Cuban and Soviet leaders, the foreign debt, future Soviet policy toward Central America and the Caribbean, and relations with Cuba.

Second News Conference Granted

PA0104031989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2112 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Report by Silvia Odoriz]

[Text] Havana, 31 Mar (EFE)—During the first contacts between Soviet officials and intellectuals with the international press within the framework of the upcoming visit of Mikhail Gorbachev to Cuba, the USSR today reaffirmed its support for a Latin American solution to the Central American conflict.

At the Soviet-Cuban "summit" between Cuban President Fidel Castro and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, which will begin 2 April in Havana, the two leaders will pay "attention to Latin America" in their agenda of international topics, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Komplektov said at a news conference today.

Komplektov said that among the extraregional powers, the United States bears the "greatest responsibility" to create peaceful conditions in Central America, and described a message sent by U.S. President George Bush to Gorbachev as "unilateral and unclear."

The White House announced yesterday that Bush sent a message to Gorbachev asking him to take advantage of his trip to Cuba to make a contribution to peace in Central America and reduce its arms supplies to Nicaragua.

The crisis in Central America must be "controlled as soon as possible" through a Latin American and Central American solution, the high-ranking official said.

Nikolay Yefimov, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee's Ideological Department, refused to say whether Gorbachev will propose an expected Soviet initiative to help peace efforts in the Central American region.

"Be patient; if we say it all now, the visit might lose interest," he told reporters.

The USSR, Komplektov recalled, supports the Contadora Group's peace efforts, the Esquipulas II accords, and the most recent pact signed by the Central American presidents.

If the United States were willing to normalize its relations with Cuba, "we would vote for it with both hands," Komplektov said, in reply to a question on whether the USSR would support that possibility.

Cuba has shown its willingness to normalize its situation with the United States, he pointed out.

Komplektov mentioned Cuba's contribution to a political accord for South Africa by committing itself to withdraw its troops from Angola as an example of its "responsibility" and inclination toward peace.

As for the request by Cuba and other countries to democratize the UN Security Council, in which its permanent members—the United States, USSR, PRC, UK, and France—have veto power, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov said his country believes it is "premature" to review the UN Charter.

Komplektov said there has been a democratization of the United Nations, as reflected in the consultations at the council among permanent and nonpermanent members. The formula that was reached to deal with the Iran-Iraq conflict is an example of its good results. He added that there are "political and philosophical agreements" between Gorbachev and Castro. This was an attempt to deny speculation about differences between the two leaders over reforms under way in the USSR, which are known as perestroyka, and which the Cuban leader refuses to apply in his country.

The official insisted political relations between the two leaders are "most favorable" and that there are "personal ties" between them; however, he hinted that "some issues will be defined [concretar]," without saying which ones.

Yefimov said the USSR "feels great sympathy and admiration" for Cuba and recalled its "people's" revolution marked its 30th anniversary amid "difficult conditions."

Nevertheless, the country "maintains its dignity and is developing," although he admitted that, despite the accomplishments, not everything has been successful.

The participants in the news conference, including Naily Bikkenin, director of the CPSU's "KOMMUNIST" ideological magazine, commented at length on the results of recent legislative elections to select the new Congress of Deputies in the USSR.

They said this congress can convene in late May, once the election of deputies who were not elected during the first round is completed.

Referring to the 26 March elections, Yefimov said: "The people have supported the reforms and voted for them." He added that they are part of the policy of "renewal" currently under way in the USSR.

Bikkenin said the USSR "is reviewing its attitude toward Western democracy" and human rights.

He said if he were a CPSU leader who ran in the elections and lost, as has happened in a great majority of cases, he would resign his post, because it means he would lack popular support.

Gerasimov Meets Press

FL3103235289 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2327 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Gennadiy Gerasimov, the man who is mentioned so frequently in the reports from Moscow because he is the official spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry, is in Havana with other Soviet officials on the occasion of Mikhail Gorbachev's visit scheduled to begin next Sunday.

In a meeting with the press accredited in Havana for the visit, Gerasimov said he felt great sympathy and admiration for Cuba, which in 30 years is showing unquestionable successes despite the economic blockade and other difficulties.

He also asserted that Gorbachev's visit will be followed with great interest by his fellow countrymen and the Soviet press and television are already working in Havana for that purpose.

Viva the long unbreakable friendship between Cuba and the USSR.

Special ANPP Session Planned

FL3103202789 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1935 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] The Council of State agreed today to hold a special and solemn session of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] on Tuesday, 4 April to welcome Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. This session, during which the distinguished visitor will speak, will take place at the Palace of Conventions at 1600. It will be an expression of the fraternal relations uniting the two peoples and the gratitude of the Cubans for the solidarity aid received from the USSR during these 30 years.

The session will be broadcast live to the entire country by Tele-Rebelde, Radio Rebelde, and Radio Ciudad de la Habana. Television Cubana's channel 6 will carry it on a deferred basis in the evening.

ANPP President on Visit

FL0104184189 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] In 1933, Severo Aguirre del Cristo visited the Soviet Union for the first time as secretary general of the Cuban Communist League. [passage indistinct] In 1981 [words indistinct] ambassador in Lenin's country.

Severo Aguirre del Cristo, member of the Communist Party of Cuba's Central Committee and president—by mandatory substitution [substitucion reglamentaria]—of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], gives his opinions of Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Cuba:

[Begin recording] [Aguirre] I believe that this visit is one of those events that soon gains historical importance. In barley a few hours, Gorbachev will arrive in our country and it could be said that it is already a historical event.

Cuba is being visited by the leader of a great nation, from the cradle of the October Revolution. This is where so many achievements have been made by his working class and people. This is not only in their own favor but in favor of the working class' cause, of the poor and the humble of the world.

For me this is terribly significant because we have the honor of having him visit. This visit honors us. This visit, as you have been able to see, has filled the Cuban people with enthusiasm and joy. The visit will make the ties of friendship even closer; it will be more solid, stronger.

[Unidentified Reporter] Severo, in the agenda is included a solemn session of the ANPP.

[Aguirre] Yes there is. We will have the honor of receiving Comrade Gorbachev at the ANPP. We are ready for this visit, everything is already prepared and we are waiting for this solemn moment. [end recording]

Further Speculation on Visit

FL0104025989 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0159 GMT 1 Apr 89

[By correspondents Silvia Durand and Rene Sanchez]

[Text] Havana, 31 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Official sources have reported that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will reject any foreign intervention in Central America and will express his support for a political solution to the conflict in the area.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Komplektov said U.S. President Bush's proposal to seek peace in the region is unclear.

Gorbachev, who will arrive in this capital next Sunday [2 April], will support a solution found by the Central Americans themselves, without foreign intervention and war, said the Soviet official.

During a news conference, Komplektov; Nikolay Yefimov, deputy chief of the Ideological Department of the CPSU; Gennadiy Gerasimov, spokesman for the Kremlin; and Naily Bikkenin, editor of the communist magazine, agreed that the destabilization of the Central American isthmus affects the international community.

They indicated that the USSR Government supports the efforts of the Contadora Group, the Esquipulas agreements, and the recent agreement reached by the five presidents of the area on the dismantling of the Nicaraguan contras. They noted that the joint agreements reached by the nations affected by the conflict should be respected and a Latin American consensus on this has been reached in the center of the Group of Eight.

They said the Soviet position on the Central American conflict is very clear and that Gorbachev will specify it during his meeting with Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers.

Regarding the possible resumption of diplomatic relations of Cuba with the United States, they asserted that the government has given favorable indications of normalizing them and this would be welcomed by the international community.

The officials expressed their admiration for the development of Cuba in the 30 years after the revolution despite the economic blockade and the flee of capital that took place during the initial years of the Castro government.

They said Soviet aid to Cuba will continue inasmuch as it has been established in treaties until the year 2000.

Visit Termed 'Culminating Moment'

FL0104114289 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Carlos Aldana, secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba's [PCC] Central Committee, has said that Gorbachev's visit is a culminating moment in USSR-Cuba relations.

Aldana made his statement after concluding a working visit to Granma Province. He said that Gorbachev's visit is an exceptional opportunity to show gratitude, acknowledgement, and respect to the communist party and people of the Soviet Union.

Aldana also stressed that the USSR's solidarity with Cuba has been a decisive factor in the development of the economy and in the edification of socialism in Cuba throughout these past 30 years. Later, the chief of the Department of Revolutionary Orientation of the PCC

Central Committee said: We will salute Mikhail Gorbachev, the man who, at present, heads the CPSU, a party which is undergoing a process of change, which corresponds to the characteristics, historical circumstances, and specific situation of the USSR.

Aldana stated that this visit will enable an exchange of opinions between the supreme leaders of the Soviet Union and Cuba. During this exchange, Aldana said, there will also be a chance to discuss the experiences, results, and possibilities of the rectification process in Cuba.

Roa Gives Thoughts on Visit

PA0204150589 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1208 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Havana, 2 Apr (REUTER)—An important Cuban Government official yesterday said he does not foresee Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev asking Cuba to alter its support to leftist revolutionary movements.

Gorbachev is scheduled to arrive in Cuba today. Over half a million people are expected to participate in a well-organized reception for the leader. Gorbachev's arrival has been described by the official Cuban press organs as "a historic event" and a milestone in the "unyielding friendship" between the two communist countries.

Raul Roa Kouri, Cuban foreign affairs vice minister, told journalists: "I strongly doubt that the USSR will feel inclined to ask Cuba not to support revolutionary movements and countries throughout the world since this is also part of the USSR's own internationalist policy."

He said Cuba has the right to support revolutionaries "because other governments believe they have the right to support counterrevolutionaries," apparently referring to the United States and its aid to the rebels fighting against Nicaragua's leftist government.

Soviet and Cuban officials said Gorbachev and Cuban President Fidel Castro will not focus on their differences. Instead, the officials said, they will probably work toward convincing U.S. President George Bush's administration that very little can be gained politically by trying to create a separation between Moscow and Havana.

After 30 years of open hostility, Washington considers Cuba's support for leftist guerrilla movements one of the prime obstacles to renewing normal relations with Havana.

Roa Kouri said he hoped Cuban-U.S. relations will improve, but added: "It takes two to tango, and we do not know whether the United States is willing to sit down and negotiate."

He stated that, even though the USSR and Cuba disagreed on certain issues, Moscow "has never pressured Cuba into doing anything."

Viktor Komplektov, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs, said Gorbachev and Castro "have a very strong personal relationship."

Referring to "perestroyka," Gorbachev's program of political and economic reforms, Roa Kouri said: "We have great respect for what the USSR is doing. The USSR also has great respect for what we are doing in our country."

Cuban officials have clearly stated that they do not intend to copy the reform program adopted by the Soviets.

In spite of what a diplomat described as "a typical exercise in improving appearances," difficult discussions are expected as Moscow tries to remodel its economic relations with the socialist bloc countries.

In a news conference held here in Havana, Komplektov said the USSR is determined to continue providing up to $5 billion a year in financial aid for its strongest ally in the Western Hemisphere. Economic experts, however, have indicated that there may be a change in the form of this aid.

Ambassador on Official Visit

PA0204162189 Havana International Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Cuban Ambassador to the USSR Julio Camacho Aguilera has told the Soviet daily newspaper PRAVDA that Cuba has confidence that the restructuring taking place in the USSR will be successful.

Camacho, who is also a member of the Cuban Communist Party [CCP] Politburo, said our country has expressed its absolute support for the Soviet peace initiatives and has confidence in the efforts of the Soviet party and people.

The Cuban diplomat pointed out that the communist parties of the two countries cooperate to a significant extent in exchanging experiences and that they are unified in terms of the goals they are pursuing.

Referring to the rectification process that is taking place in Cuba, Camacho said this involves how to make socialism advance under our own real historical conditions. [Word indistinct] is a major leap in the quality of our revolutionary work.

Camacho asserted that the meeting in Havana between top Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Cuban President Fidel Castro will contribute to an analysis of matters of common interest and to an even greater strengthening of their ties of friendship.

Castro, Gorbachev Grant News Conference
FL0304025089 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 3 Apr 89

["Exclusive statements" made by President Fidel Castro, CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, and Mrs Gorbachev to Soviet and Cuban television journalists "at the residence to be occupied by the Gorbachevs in Havana" on 2 April—recorded; Gorbachevs' statements in Russian with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish; Castro statements in Spanish with simultaneous translation into Russian; An identical, recorded version of this news conference was carried by Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish at 0030 GMT on 3 April providing dropped words.]

[Text] [Reporter] [Untranslated question in Russian]

[Gorbachev] I have already told Comrade Fidel that we have met with the Cuban people. Therefore, everything is clear; our friendship, our hearts have come together. Now it only remains for us to talk to each other.

[Reporter] What have you already spoken about?

[Gorbachev] Basically, we spoke of our impressions while we were on our way. We saw enthusiasm, openness. We saw a very vigorous people.

[Castro] I told Comrade Gorbachev that unfortunately, our Revolution did not inherit a Kremlin to house him, or a great palace like the one left by the emperor in Ethiopia. There are palaces everywhere, but no palace was left here. We have houses where the high-level bourgeois lived, houses that we have maintained.

[Gorbachev] We saw a magnificent, beautiful city.

[Raisa Gorbachev] [Untranslated comment in Russian]

[Unidentified speaker] At least Raisa is like the people from Havana.

[Castro] Raisa, where were you? I didn't see you. Were you behind us?

[Raisa Gorbachev] Yes.

[Castro] An enormous crowd. Didn't you see it?

[Reporter] Yes, we all saw it on television.

[Gorbachev] Is this Cuban or Soviet press?

[Castro] Great enthusiasm. Were you along the road?

[Reporter] No, no. We were here from the outset, waiting.

[Gorbachev] I wish to express to the Cubans our great appreciation of this welcome, for the extensive enthusiasm and affection shown to us. It is important to our people, to Soviet television to have seen us in the arms, in the embrace of our people.

[Reporter] Commander, 540 reporters from all over the world have been accredited to cover this visit by Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev. What does this visit, which is being covered by the world's most important media, reveal to the world?

[Castro] Well, I believe that no arrival has ever had so many reporters. No arrival was ever seen by so many million people in the world. It shows the enormous interest evoked by Comrade Gorbachev's visit. I even combed my hair, and I almost never comb my hair. I had to comb my hair, because millions of people all over the world are going to see me. I am going to appear on television everywhere. Therefore, I took the trouble to dress well and to fix myself up, because I realized that we had....

[Reporter, interrupting] [Words indistinct] in Moscow?

[Castro] In Moscow I will wear my other suit. [Words indistinct] as there is a great deal of construction underway, there is a great deal of dust. I had never felt so much dust.

[Reporter] I saw that you brushed yourself off on one occasion.

[Castro] Yes, yes, yes. Dust, dust. I do not know how Comrade Gorbachev managed.

[Gorbachev] I am truly moved by this reception, these sentiments. I will not say anything new. In our country, all our people are very moved by this friendship, with very deep feelings. In previous years, in the past, including difficult times, it has been tested over time and is very clear.

[Reporter] We thank you fo having given us this exclusive interview, for the Soviet and Cuban television.

[Gorbachev] I thank you very much.

[Castro] Even nature behaved well.

[Reporter] Everyone withstood the rain.

[Castro] There was no sun; there was little rain. It was cool.

[Gorbachev] The only shelter with which I am familiar here are the palm trees. [laughter]

[Reporter] What was the temperature in Moscow when you left?

[Gorbachev] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] When will this be broadcast in Moscow?

[Reporter] Today.

[Castro] It will be broadcast in Moscow today? When will the welcome be seen on Soviet television?

[Reporter] Right away.

[Castro] But it is now 0200 in Moscow.

[Reporter] Yes, but it will surely be carried in the main newscasts tomorrow.

[Second reporter] It will surely be carried tomorrow in the morning casts. We are also broadcasting for the Latin American countries. This visit is very important to them.

[Gorbachev] As you already know, during the past 15 years we have had many important meetings with visitors from the Latin American Continent. I believe that it is a continent that is heading along a great path of historic development. Its processes are developing, intensifying and the process of democratization is being strengthened. It is becoming the giant of the future. I believe that this continent has a great future ahead.

[Reporter] Thank you very much.

[Castro] Thank you for letting us go. [laughter] You had an exclusive, the first interview with Comrade Gorbachev....

[Reporter, interrupting] The first statements, what an honor.

[Castro] From over 500 reporters. Sell it to American television.

[Reporter] Of course. [laughter]

[Gorbachev] I have to tell you simply, that it was a unique impression. Incredible. The people, the people's empathy [comunicacion]. It gave us the greatest satisfaction, the greatest satisfaction. [Crowd shouts: "Soviet [words indistinct] Viva, Viva!"]

Official Talks To Begin 3 Apr

FL0304130789 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Official Soviet-Cuban talks headed by Mikhail Gorbachev and Fidel Castro are scheduled to begin today in Havana. The talks will be the center of the activities of the highest Soviet leader's visit to our country which began yesterday.

Gorbachev's arrival was radiant and triumphant from the moment he stepped on Cuban soil for the first time at 2155 GMT yesterday [2 April]. The highest Soviet leader and the chief of the Cuban Revolution embraced warmly, and smiling, at the bottom of the stairs of the Aeroflot IL-62. A brilliant ceremony in honor of such a distinguished visitor followed. Army General Raul Castro accompanied Gorbachev and Fidel throughout the whole ceremony.

Afterward, the two leaders got in a convertible vehicle and toured more than 20 km of streets which were full of Havana residents who constantly cheered them. Despite the fact that it rained up until Gorbachev's arrival, the capital's residents resisted the weather without diminishing their enthusiasm. The Soviet leader later said: I am very impressed by this meeting, this welcome, this courtesy. Speaking exclusively for the Cuban press, Gorbachev called the welcome moving by its vastness, cordiality, and expressions of affection and fondness.

The Soviet leader was seen on camera as obviously excited and always smiling. Commander in Chief Fidel Castro also emphasized the extent of the popular mobilization, the colorful welcome, and the enthusiasm of the people. Gorbachev added that he felt he was among a healthy and courteous people who were represented by the Havana residents. I have already said to Fidel, he added, that we felt we were in the arms of friends, and that is very important for our two nations.

Fidel returned to the subject of the welcome, and noted that people can be mobilized, but that their enthusiasm cannot be summoned—and that was the most outstanding characteristic of the event.

Gorbachev, for his part, textually said: I think I will not be saying anything new if I say that our country and all our people really appreciate the strong and sincere friendship that has lasted through many years, including difficult times, and that has been tested. This is very clear, and that is very good, and it is the most important thing.

Wreath Placed at Monument

FL0304145189 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1407 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Last minute report: CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, accompanied by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, just placed a floral wreath at the foot of the Jose Marti Monument at Revolution Square.

The Soviet leader arrived in Havana yesterday afternoon heading a USSR party and Government official delegation in response to an invitation made by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

Television Coverage Plans Given

FL0304034789 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0015 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Cuban television stations will provide the most extensive news coverage in their history over the next few days. They are already servicing 22 television stations in America, Europe, and Asia that will broadcast news of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to the world.

To date, we have extended accreditation to 210 radio and television journalists. We have approximately five stations with direct satellite access: Cubana Caribe, which has access to Intersputnik and Intelsat, and other stations that have obtained temporary access.

It is also interesting that so far, we have received requests for 150 broadcasts over the next 3 days. We have established a complete operations center to provide the services that are normally called bookings in English. This refers to requests for electronic press services as a whole. It could be said that there has been no greater television coverage of a single event in our country in memory. It is the most complex operation ever. It definitely speaks very highly of the quality of our technicians, engineers and all our personnel.

Light Industry Agreement Signed With USSR

FL3103224589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] The Cuban and Soviet Light Industry Ministries signed in this capital today a cooperation agreement aimed at the development of joint productions. The first stage of the agreement basically includes manufacturing of clothing and shoes in domestic enterprises with raw material from the USSR. The Soviet Union will also supply equipment in the next 5-year period.

Ivan Hernandez, first vice minister of the Light Industry [name and title as received], noted the importance of the signing of this cooperation agreement for the development of the area and for the possibility of opening new factory capabilities. The agreement is very advantageous for the two sides. Joint productions are expected to begin in June of this year with the first blocks of clothing manufacturing which include shirts and pants.

Trade With USSR To Increase in 1989

FL0104181089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Commercial trade between Cuba and the USSR exceeded 130 billion pesos in 1988, and according to the protocol signed for 1989, this amount will increase substantially. This was stated by German Amado-Blanco, first vice foreign trade minister of our country, during a news conference granted in Havana. Aleksander Kachanov, USSR first deputy minister of foreign economic contacts, was also present.

In the conference, the officials stated that the bilateral cooperation and trade is noted for its dynamic and multilateral character.

In the area of cooperation, the completion of the Matanzas supertanker base was noted. This will permit the Soviet Union and Cuba to increase the efficiency and dexterity of loading and unloading oil to supply our refineries and factories.

With the forming off a construction contingent in this project, the pace of work was considerably augmented. According to Nikolay Sukhov, chief of the USSR advisory group, this year"s production has already exceeded 1.2 billion pesos.

Havana Not 'Begging' for Relations With U.S.

FL3103183289 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The policy that the current U.S. Administration will adopt toward Cuba, according to us, is still not defined. Cuba cannot seriously consider the terms of the report that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker recently sent to his embassies. Rather, we suspect that the text of the letter is no more than a test. However, if this is the real policy that President George Bush's government is going to finally adopt toward our country, it would truly be disappointing. We would be facing one of the worst political views that a U.S. Administration has ever adopted, in past or present times.

It is true that Baker's report was addressed to his diplomats and other State Department officials. However, once it was made public, it became a sign. That document is not even respectful in its policy formulation toward our country. In one of the sections Baker says, and we quote him, textually: No modification is being considered in U.S. policy without significant changes by Cuba regarding its internal repression and its unacceptable behavior abroad against U.S. interests. The proconsul language of Mr Baker could not be more arrogant, imperious, or deceitful; not only that, but in his report he attempts to elect himself judge of foreign and domestic policy of the Cuban Revolution.

The report makes it look like Cuba was begging the United States for relations, and Washington, in turn, was putting conditions and orders to those relations. After 3 decades of socialism in Cuba, Mr Baker's goals are extremely out of proportion. Cuba has never refused the possibility of a responsible dialogue with the United States. However, we do not think that that constitutes the epicenter of the country's concerns. Furthermore, what will be the conditions for that dialogue or relations? To answer that in Fidel's words: It will have to be based on the United States' ability to see that neither the people of Cuba nor Castro are opportunists, people who change allegiances, people who can be bought. No one respects those who can be bought.

Human Rights, Justice System Discussed

PA0204210589 Havana International Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] While addressing dozens of journalists accredited in Havana who are covering Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit, Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Raul

Roa Kouri and Justice Minister Juan Escalona discussed respect for human rights and justice in Cuba during a news conference at the Habana Libre Hotel.

Escalona discussed the humanization of Cuba's penitentiary system, pointing out that the rights of prisoners in our country range from the right to work to the right to receive visitors. Escalona added that meetings held among socialist bloc justice ministers have been instrumental in perfecting Cuba's penitentiary system.

Roa said the only way to promote respect for citizens' rights is through dialogue and cooperation. He added that Cuba's initiative to promote the right to development as a basic human right has made much progress, thanks to the support of the Nonaligned Movement, and is being included as a topic of discussion in international conferences. In this regard, he said, the UN Commission on Human Rights has included a discussion on the effect of the foreign debt on citizens' rights in the agenda for its next meeting.

Havana Reports Prisoner Exchange in Angola

FL3103201589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1950 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] A prisoner of war exchange between Angola, Cuba, and South Africa took place today at a border point of the southernmost part of the Angolan territory. The exchange took place at 1225, local time, thus fulfilling the agreements reached by the second meeting of the joint tripartite commission held in this capital a week ago.

More on Prisoner Exchange

FL3103232989 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2303 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Sixteen prisoners of war from Angola, Cuba, and South Africa have been exchanged by officials from these countries in Ruacana, the border point between Angola and Namibia. The exchanged prisoners include 12 Angolans, 3 Cubans, and 1 South African who remained in captivity between 10 months and over 6 years. This latter period was the case of Cuban internationalist soldier Rodolfo Estevez Lantigua, 33.

Raul Estela Martell, 26, and Luis Milian Gonzalez, 29, were also released. They were captured on 14 February 1988 near Cuito Cuanavale, where violent clashes took place. South Africans suffered here a significant defeat which took them to the negotiating table. This exchange was agreed during the second joint tripartite commission meeting held in Havana recently.

Prisoner of War Interviewed

FL0104011289 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Sixteen prisoners of war including 12 Angolans, 3 Cubans, and 1 South African were released during an exchange in the border between Angola and Namibia today. The three Cuban internationalists are Rodolfo Estevez Lantigua, Raul Estela Martell, and Luis Milian Gonzalez.

Johan Papenfus, who recovered in our country, left a few hours ago for the African Continent. The prisoner exchange was agreed on during the second meeting of the Angola-Cuba-South Africa joint commission held in Havana recently.

The South African prisoner was interviewed by our journalist Elizabeth Noriega during his stay in Cuba.

[Begin recording] [Noriega] Papenfus was captured on 4 May of last year in the People's Republic of Angola. He was later brought to Cuba to receive medical treatment. Completely recovered from his serious wounds and after 10 months in our country, these are his remarks:

[Papenfus, in English with simultaneous Spanish translation] Yes, I want to say to Commander Fidel Castro, thanks for the time I was here and for the treatment they gave me here, and for the good food, everything. It was a big experience.

[Noriega] Which places did you have a chance to visit?

[Papenfus] I was at the Santa Maria beach, Old Havana, and some other places.

[Unidentified reporter] Would you like to return to Cuba as a tourist?

[Papenfus] Yes, I think I will come back.

[Noriega] Why?

[Papenfus] To see more of the country. [end recording]

Troops To Return

FL0104134489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] This evening, a new contingent of Cuban internationalist combatants will begin to arrive in our country by plane. The internationalists were in the People's Republic of Angola fulfilling their mission.

Our experienced internationalists were bid farewell in various ceremonies held in Angola and will begin to arrive in Cuba as of today. They will also arrive on 3-4 April on special flights.

According to the timetable established at the end of last year between Angola and Cuba for the return of our troops, 25,000 Cuban soldiers should be withdrawn from the African nation before 1 November. Of the 25,000, over 3,000 have already been withdrawn.

Officers, Soldiers 'Satisfied'

FL0304033189 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Report by Irma Caceres from Angola]

[Text] Cuban authorities are carrying out the return of their troops from Angola in line with the international commitments made and the bilateral agreement reached with the Angolan Government in December 1988. Officers and soldiers are returning satisfied with their mission.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified speaker in military uniform] This is the first contingent of the official withdrawal of the Cuban troops to return victorious to the fatherland. Other groups of comrades will also leave gradually. They have also had an outstanding performance.

[Second speaker in uniform] They are the ones who have made it possible for us to reach those goals. They have fulfilled with honor, like no one else, the task assigned to us by Fidel, the party, and our people. [end recording]

Also, the members of the UN contingent that has been in Angolan territory since last January, had a positive opinion when a military contingent was returning to Cuba.

[Begin recording] [First UN contingent member] Since it is the key date of the beginning of the operations, logically, it has been given more attention and more officials, more high-level officials of the units that are leaving have come in order to show the importance 1 April has for all.

[Second UN contingent member] Up to now, the whole mission is going well. We have found total support on the part of the Angolan and Cuban authorities. Our mission has been accomplished very well. [end recording]

The Cuban forces stationed in southern Angola have been conducting intense preparation and withdrawal to Parallel 16 since 1 April as stipulated by the agreements. At the same time, the process for the independence of Namibia—occupied until now illegally by the South African troops—begins.

[Begin recording] [Speaker identified by caption but illegible] Exactly 13 years and 4 days ago, Angolan and Cuban troops arrived in this historic area of Ruacana. Over these 13 years, Angola has been continuously attacked by South Africa, right up until the final battles known to us all, which ended with the South Africans' defeat, first in Cuito Cuanavale and finally near Calueque, another historic site, where the final blows were struck on 27 June 1988. [end recording]

The young fighters received various awards in recognition of their distinguished performance, and were bid farewell by Angolan and Cuban military leaders in Ruacana, on the southern tip of Cunene Province on the Namibian border. This was the site of a prisoner exchange among Angola, Cuba, and South Africa, in compliance with agreements covering this area.

South African citizen Johan Papenfus, taken prisoner by Cuban soldiers in Cunene Province returned to his country in perfect physical condition accompanied by his physician up to the time of the exchange. Hundreds of journalists participated in the event at the Namibian-Angolan border with all the appropriate formalities. [Video shows Papenfus stepping out of a helicopter.]

This was a great moment for the three Cubans who returned to the Angolan territory. Raul Estela Martell and Luis Martin Gonzalez were taken prisoners on 14 February 1988 when they were fighting the South African forces in the south. Rodolfo Estevez Lantigua was a prisoner since 1983 and was tortured by the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] counterrevolutionary bands.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] Did they give you medical attention for the wounds you suffered?

[Estevez Lantigua, identified by caption] They did but resources were few.

[Speaker] Were you hospitalized at a military or civilian hospital?

[Estevez Lantigua] Never.

[Speaker] Never? Were you given treatment by the UNITA or in South Africa?

[Estevez Lantigua] In South Africa, when I had a headache and things like that. My hand is crippled.

[Speaker] What happened to your hand?

[Estevez Lantigua] When I suffered a head wound my hand was affected, according to what the doctors explained to me.

[Speaker] Did they give you the treatment your hand needed?

[Estevez Lantigua] They didn't because they could have solved my problem better. Two of my fingers are broken. These two fingers were broken after I was taken prisoner.

[Speaker] Let's see.

[Estevez Lantigua shows his hand]

[Speaker] They broke your fingers after you were taken prisoner? Does this mean you were tortured?

[Estevez Lantigua] Yes, they punished me.

[Speaker] Why, the UNITA? What did they do to you?

[Estevez Lantigua] They punished me because they wanted me to talk against the [words indistinct] government and against my government. [end recording]

Also the Ruacana Valley was the backdrop to the last meeting of the joint military committee created in August 1988 to create the conditions to make the New York agreements possible and to pave the way for Namibia's independence. The meeting took place in an area known as Swavek in Namibia some 5 km from the Angolan border. In this way, this coordinating forum ended its mission successfully.

At the end of our trip, we had flown thousands of kilometers in 39 hours. Undoubtedly, we had covered historic images of the struggle for independence of Angola and Africa. The strong ties created throughout these years were made evident in a remark made by the chief of staff of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA].

[Antonio Dos Santos Franco, chief of staff of FAPLA, identified by caption, in Spanish] They have been here with us from the beginning. They have helped us a lot. They helped to train our Armed Forces. This is why we consider them Angolans. This is why I was saying that we are bidding farewell to our troops. [end recording]

UN Resolution 435 Goes Into Effect in Namibia

FL0104132789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Today, the application of UN Resolution 435 goes into effect in Namibia. The resolution calls for the independence of that African nation. Simultaneously, the cease-fire between SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] guerrillas and South African troops will go into effect.

On another matter, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said that, in light of the mandate received from the UN Security Council, he will repatriate 58,000 Namibian refugees presently found in Angola and Zambia.

The repatriation program, freely concented to by Namibia, will be put into effect during the year. This will comply with the mandate given to the UN Transitional Assistance Group [UNTAG] for the independence of Namibia. Most of the refugees should be returned to their country between mid-May and the end of June of the given year. This program also includes Namibian students found in other countries who express a desire to return.

The budget for the repatriation program has been raised to $38 million.

Risquet Receives Netherlands Delegation

FL3103154089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee Politburo, has received in Havana a delegation of senators from the First and Second Chambers of the Netherlands.

During the meeting, which was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere, the Cuban official described in detail the formation process of the PCC under the leadership of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. Risquet referred to the party's close ties with the mass and social organizations. He also discussed the progress of the process of rectification.

For their part, the parliamentarians emphasized the achievements they see in our society; and expressed their willingness to continue working to strengthen the relations between the peoples of the Netherlands and Cuba.

Ethiopian Delegation Arrives in Havana

FL0104140589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] An Ethiopian delegation has arrived in our country. The delegation is headed by Hailu Yimanu, member of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia's Politburo and first vice foreign minister of that brother country. Yimanu is accompanied by (Seleke Alemu), official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The delegation, which is in our country on a friendly and working visit, was greeted by Lionel Soto, secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba's Secretariat of the Central Committee, and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Relations.

Hailu Yimanu, special envoy of Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam, told the press that the fraternal ties between both countries grow stronger in every sense, every day. He also said that proof of this increased sentiment are the Cuban doctors and technicians who aid the people of Ethiopia.

UN Members for Fight Against Drugs Depart

FL0104020789 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] A UN drug experts delegation has ended a visit to Cuba paid at the invitation of the Cuban Government. The members of the delegation learned about our country's policies on drug trafficking. The mission was composed of Spain's Francisco Ramos Galino, chairman of the narcotics division, and Tunisia's Abdelaziz, secretary of the International Narcotics Control Board. Ramon de la Cruz Ochoa, attorney general of the Republic, bid farewell to the UN delegation which left for Panama.

[Begin Ramos Galino recording, indentified by caption] We are leaving with a number of very positive impressions on the way Cuba deals with the fight against the illegal demand of drugs—which is almost nonexistent here in Cuba—and in the way they are cooperating with the rest of the world, with the international community, in the fight against illegal trafficking of narcotics and psychotropic drugs.

I believe that precisely the integration of the entire Cuban society in the problems of education and health, as well as in the fight of illegal trafficking, makes the successes achieved extremely satisfactory for the United Nations. [end recording]

Communications Enterprises Expand Services

FL0104160989 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1444 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] The putting into service of over 1,600 telephone lines in Las Tunas Province is part of the investment program which will be undertaken in the province during the present year.

The program of the communications enterprises for 1989 in Las Tunas also include the finishing of a transmitter for Radio Progreso and two television relays in the Amancio Rodriguez and Manati Municipalities. Also, to increase service to the population of Las Tunas, the communications enterprises will build a wiregram in Las Parras and expand the post offices in Ciudad Crecera, as well as building a new post office in La Victoria neighborhood.

Increasing the local networks, building the provincial newspaper center, and expanding the television selection service are other tasks the enterprises have planned for the present year.

CTC Selects Committee Members for 16th Congress

FL3103145289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Six new members have been selected to join the committee organizing the 16th CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions] Congress. They are: Alfredo Morales Cartaya, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and CTC secretary general in Havana City; Joaquin Bernal Camero, member of the PCC Central Committee who is in charge of CTC Organization Department; Francisco Castillo Falcon who is in charge of the CTC Social and Labor Affairs Department; Rafael Collazo Cabrera, CTC secretary general in Havana Province; (Luis Ernesto Beato Jimenez), secretary general of the Construction Workers Union; and Ramon Cardona Nuevo, secretary general of Chemical, Mining, and Energy Industry Workers Trade Union.

These comrades are joining the committee without leaving their current posts. The committee has also decided to use in their work all the secretary generals of the national trade unions. However, they will not be members of the committee.

Politburo Member Closes Geological Congress

FL0104013589 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] The first Cuban Geological Congress ended in Havana today showing the scientific-technical progress achieved in the search for minerals and raw materials after the triumph of the Cuban Revolution. During his closing remarks, Pedro Miret Prieto, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, said regional gas and oil search activities began in 1961 with the help of the Soviet Union. Miret noted the various deposits found and placed at the service of industries thanks to the work of geologists. He said:

[Begin Miret recording] These are the workers for whom the outdoors, physical efforts, loneliness, and isolation from large centers are daily facts to which they adapt their wills and minds. A geologist should always be systematic, patient, self-sacrificing, and optimistic. We are certain that the geologists and miners will be worthy of the trust placed on them by Fidel for the fulfillment of our mining development plans needed so much by our country. [end recording]

Dominican Republic

Reaction to Haiti Coup; Possible Avril Arrival

Escort Proceeds to Airport

PA0204164389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1546 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Santo Domingo, 2 Apr (EFE)—The deposed president of Haiti, General Prosper Avril, reportedly left this morning for the Dominican Republic, according to Dominican Foreign Ministry sources.

The reports gained credibility approximately 30 minutes ago when one of the limousines of Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer left for the Las Americas International Airport, escorted by units of the president's military guards.

The limousine was traveling at high speed on the Las Americas Highway escorted by National Police vehicles with sirens blaring.

Border Posts Reinforced

PA0204173889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1632 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Santo Domingo, 2 Apr (EFE)—The Defense Ministry has reinforced the major Dominican military border posts as a result of the coup d'etat in Haiti that deposed General Prosper Avril.

Military sources have told EFE that the border detachments of Pedernales and Jimani, in the southwest, and Dajabon, in the north, have been reinforced, something that is routinely done whenever there is a coup in Haiti.

So far there has been no report of any attempt by the Haitian military to enter the Dominican Republic through the land border between the two countries.

EFE has tried to establish contact with Dominican Armed Forces Secretary Lieutenant General Elias Wessin y Wessin but has not succeeded.

No Asylum Request Received

PA0204201689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1947 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Santo Domingo, 2 Apr (EFE)—Rafael Bello Andino, Dominican secretary of state for the Presidency, today said that the governnment of the Dominican Republic has not received any request for political asylum from deposed Haitian President General Prosper Avril or from any other official.

Bello Andino added that the Dominican Government found out about the coup d'etat in Haiti through international news agencies.

He said that the Dominican cabinet ordered the country's border with Haiti to be reinforced as soon as it learned of the coup.

Bello Andino stated, very matter-of-factly: "When certain events take place in Haiti, we increase border vigilance."

Avril Reportedly Arrives

PA0204204089 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2008 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Santo Domingo, 2 Apr (DPA)—Ousted Haitian President General Prosper Avril arrived today at 1000 in the Las Americas International Airport in Santo Domingo aboard a Haitian Air Force aircraft, according to unconfirmed reports in this capital.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources in the Dominican Republic confirmed Avril's ouster, asserting that a group of military officers led by General Gerard Abraham, a former Duvalierist military officer, has assumed control of the country.

Likewise, Rafael Bello Andino, secretary of the Dominican Presidency, did not confirm or deny Avril's arrival in the country but said that no official request for political asylum had been received.

Reports indicate that Avril was taken by security agents to a still unspecified place in two official vehicles.

Meanwhile, the Dominican Republic ordered military reinforcements to the cities of Dajabon, Imani, and Pedernales, on the Haitian border, though no incidents have been reported at the border.

Haiti

Armed Forces Leaders Reportedly Attempt Coup

'Heavy Gunfire' Near Palace

PA0204122189 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1142 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 2 Apr (REUTER)—Heavy gunfire was heard today near the presidential palace and in other parts of the Haitian capital in what appears to be a coup d'etat, some witnesses reported.

The witnesses said they heard gunfire between 0400 and 0600 (0800-1000 GMT), although no tanks have been seen in the streets.

The firing follows the dismissal of four high-ranking military officials on Thursday evening, in what political sources described as a campaign against drug trafficking operations in which some military officers are reportedly involved.

The first reports indicate that Gerard Abraham, commander in chief of the Army, and Henry Diamey, commander of the presidential guards, might be leading the coup d'etat.

Haitians monitoring the Army's radio network said that President Prosper Avril might be detained at the Leopards' Battalion barracks on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince.

The state radio and television have not mentioned the shooting.

Asked if the shooting was connected with the drug issue, a government spokesman told REUTER that this was "probable."

Avril, Minister Reportedly Arrested

PA0204134289 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1312 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 2 Apr (DPA)—Haitian President General Prosper Avril and Interior Minister Colonel Acedius St Louis are under arrest in a barracks located on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince, after trying to form a government junta, according to unconfirmed official sources.

Gen Avril, who took over the Presidency following a coup d'etat in September, rewrote the Constitution in mid-March, eliminating 37 articles and putting all the reins of power in his hands.

Gen Avril was reportedly arrested by a commando unit of the elite Leopards' Battalion following a series of armed incidents at the presidential palace in Port-au-Prince.

The situation is reportedly under the control of the Army chief, General Gerard Abraham.

Radio Liberte Confirms Arrests

FL0204151389 Port-au-Prince Radio Liberte in Creole 1324 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Statement by Serge Beaulieu, former member of the 44th Legislature; monitored in progress]

[Text] ...well, they will know that they will (?be putting) themselves into a situation where they (?will have to flee to) La Gonaive.

This is 94.1 FM stereo, 1360 AM, Radio Liberte, a new dimension to the news in Haiti, telling you that the national time is the national time. We are no longer going to change the time. We aren't going to change the time. OK.

We are telling you that Colonel Acedius St Louis, minister of interior, was arrested this morning, handcuffed, and carted away.

Comrade General Avril, for his part, is at the Leopards' Battalion [headquarters] stating his last name, first name, address, and place of domicile.

A government is going to be formed. When the government is formed, if everything is confirmed, Radio Liberte is going to tell you who is in it.

It might have people like General [Gerard] Abraham [commander-in-chief of the Haitian Armed Forces] in it. There will be Himmler Rebus [commander of the Leopards' Battalion]. It is (?a chip off the old block of] Toussaint Louverture they want to arrest. [laughs] He resembles Toussaint Louverture!

We have Colonel Guy Francois. And we have many others. Many others. I need say no more about this.

So we are going to see how the situation presents itself, and then... [rephrases] in order to know what must be done. The (?class) [reference to the Duvalierists].... [rephrases] They will finally realize that there is a political class in this country. (?As of today), there is a political class.

People are not going to come in from elsewhere to come tell us here—we who have remained on the scene for 30 years and have gone through all the rotten times—how we are going to [word indistinct] things. As of this moment, we are the masters of our own house.

Of course, times are going to be very hard for us. Times are going to be very hard for us. However, we will retain our dignity. Because we must retain our dignity.

You who are listening to me right now have heard me on the dossier. You have heard me at the great debates. The great debates are going to lead you to national dignity, to national authenticity.

Urban masses, rural masses, all staunch patriots who understood what I had been saying to them: Well, the moment has come for you to fall into line so we can change the country's situation and take back our dignity.

We will take back our dignity so that we can make of this country a real country. We are not anyone's totally dependent flunkies, nor have we ever been. As I said, I—Serge Beaulieu, speaking to you right now—never went to eat at anybody's embassy. And I worked for people. They paid me. I paid my taxes. I am proper when I am at someone else's house. I don't owe anybody anything. I don't owe any embassy anything. I don't owe any embassy. Those who owe some embassy something, well, that is their business. I myself owe no embassy anything.

I Serge Beaulieu, speaking to you right now, at this national hour, national hour [repeats himself], an hour that is not the dependent flunky of anyone, 0830, well, this is the national time. Well, we are telling you that you might hear a little shooting in the streets. Go about your occupations normally. It is a sort of cleanup that is being done.

A putting in order of one's affairs! What (?had to be) done has been done. They are gone. Gone! (Jolibois) is gone.

OK; Haitian masses, exhibit self-discipline! Remember what I said. Don't go trash people's houses and things like that. Be disciplined, so that no one can come and say to you that the situation in Haiti is confused. There is no confused situation in Haiti! No confusion. They played the game, and they lost. I'm off.

French Embassy Reports 'Calm'

LD0204142889 Paris Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Haiti in a state: Shots were heard this morning coming from the Presidential Palace and in some districts of Port-au-Prince. According to certain information, President Prosper Avril has reportedly been overthrown by the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, General Abraham. Prosper Avril himself overthrew his predecessor General Namphy on 17 September. Thierry Olivier managed to reach the press attache of the French Embassy in Port-au-Prince:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified attache] Rumors allege that President Avril has been arrested, but we do not yet know by which army faction, by whom. Local radios are silent.

[Olivier] What is the atmosphere at this moment in Port-au-Prince?

[Attache] Very calm, very calm. I have just arrived at the embassy; I had to cross the whole town and it is peaceful. [end recording]

Official Announcement Awaited

FL0204155989 Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles Internationales in Creole 1449 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Monitored in progress from poor reception]

[Text] ...Sunday, and also, people can see, right now as we talk to you, the many members of the Armed Forces in the streets of Port-au-Prince. There is (?also) a military presence in the courtyard of the National Palace, [words indistinct] last night [words indistinct] we heard some shooting. And today again, this morning, the same thing. We see lots of vehicles (?and people) in the streets. (?This stems from) rumors that there was a coup d'etat last night.

Mobile Unit seven, Roumain, what information can you give us about this matter?

[Roumain—live] [Passage indistinct] a team [words indistinct] that is shooting. It was 0930 when we heard many many shots in that area.

Around the National Palace, we can tell you that there are military troops [words indistinct], and we have also noticed that there many many soldiers at all gasoline stations. For example, at the gas station on the corner of Rue Pavee, between Rue Pavee and Rue Monsigneur Guilloux, there are more than eight soldiers. There are both soldiers in olive green and soldiers in blue.

And as you very correctly said a while ago, this is linked to the rumors of a coup d'etat circulating in Haiti. Already here in Port-au-Prince, since 0100 according to many people, General Prosper Avril is no longer president. However, this is still just a rumor, for neither the national radio nor the national television station has yet confirmed this, and there has not yet been any official announcement regarding this matter.

In any case, all of Radio Antilles Internationales' mobile units are out in the streets of Port-au-Prince—mobile units six, seven, eight, and five, are all... [break in transmission]

Avril's Arrest, 'Calm' Noted

LD0204165189 Paris Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Rumors of a coup d'etat in Haiti: Shots were heard this morning in Port-au-Prince. Soldiers took up positions outside the main buildings of the town. President Prosper Avril, who has been in power for less than 7 months, is reported to have been overthrown by General Abraham, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces. Let's listen to the account of a Haitian journalist contacted a few minutes ago by Laurent Baumelle. According to this Haitian journalist, President Prosper Avril has been imprisoned:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] General Prosper Avril is incarcerated in the barrack's prison in the vicinity of La Republique. The [word indistinct] is there, too. Colonel [name indistinct] is imprisoned, too.

[Baumelle] What is the current situation in Haiti?

[Correspondent] The country is peaceful, quite peaceful. So far, it is one of the radio stations that has been conveying the news. So far, all the other stations have remained silent, and the whole country is calm. There is no panic; everything is going on behind the scenes.

[Baumelle] Has this coup d'etat already resulted in victims?

[Correspondent] No, everyone saw that things were not going very well, as had been expected. (?It is not that) everyone was taken by surprise by the upset, that should be understood, but no one really knows what is happening. But what is certain is that the general is now a prisoner at the Leopards' Battalion barracks. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Reports on Shooting, Arrests

FL0204185189 Port-au-Prince Radio Liberte in Creole 1524 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Monitored in progress from poor reception]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified speaker] ...[words indistinct] Mais Gate Airport. We continued on, along National Highway No 1, all the way to the military airfield. We saw that the same thing was going on there, but at a different [word indistinct], because there we saw only

tanks and the pickup trucks of the military, going up and down. All of them went through that same Cite Militaire, to the other entrance of the military airport.

Thus, yes, we did note, 1 hour ago, that there were tanks [words indistinct].

[Serge Beaulieu, former member of the 44th legislature] In any case, what we understand is that the airport appears to be closed, because people cannot reach the airport. [passage omitted]

In other words, there is an exceptional situation unfolding in Haiti. Some people don't want the general public to know this, but there is indeed an exceptional situation unfolding at present in Haiti. And regardless of the phone calls.... [changes thought] Some guys have called here and said they were coming to trash us, and so forth. Well, these are the sequels, you know. They said they would come and trash us. So, tell me, who are you going to trash? Haiti's national majority?

And where are you going after you do it? [passage omitted]

In other words, gentlemen, you know Radio Liberte couldn't be afraid, because we have been making events in Haiti. We have done it both with the military and without the military. Events can be made without the military too, you know! [passage omitted]

Listen, Franck Chery and Melante Roumain, it looks like you think this is a civilian talking to you right now. Wrong. And I myself am not just a veteran of the the Champ de Mars [area in Port-au-Prince near the National Palace]. I was in Israel, the Congo, and Vietnam; so don't mess around with me, OK? We are doing journalistic work here—not propaganda. Our position toward Mr Avril remains the same, whether he stays or not. Whatever we have to say about him, we say. We are not his flunkies. He does not owe us money. He has never given Radio Liberte a cent. Nobody has given us a red cent. [passage omitted]

We repeat that there is an exceptional situation unfolding. [passage omitted] We have sent our reporters out to the scene of events, to obtain first-hand information for us. We have Hans Peters with us here. [passage omitted] There was just a burst of gunfire right near here. And a guy called us to say nothing was going on, and that the general is in the palace. But if the general is in the palace, then let him make a statement! He has the national television station at his disposal, after all! [passage omitted].

We are in permanent contact with the other press agencies. [passage omitted]

Some guy says nothing is going on. There are tanks in the streets and the military is shooting in the streets. What do you mean nothing is going on?

[Peters] Bursts of gunfire have been heard in [name of area indistinct], Delmas, [words indistinct] Rue (Saint Martin), Grand Rue, and in the Portail St Joseph area. And we noted the same thing in the La Saline area. And also along National Highway No 1, as far as [words indistinct] Boston [passage indistinct] the same thing is going on. We got a number of calls just a moment ago reporting bursts of gunfire on Avenue Nicolas.

This morning, one of our reporters witnessed the arrest of Acedius St Louis. He knows Acedius well, and saw them handcuff him, put him into a small blue car, and take him away. [passage omitted]

[Beaulieu] Don't come and say you are Colonel Valcin, in order to pressure the press. [passage omitted] On the contrary, give us precise information. [passage omitted] We tell you that our reporter witnessed the arrest of Acedius St Louis. He returned (?their fire) and they arrested him. [passage omitted] We don't know where they took him. [passage omitted] They say Avril is still here. I know Prosper Avril's voice very well. If he wants to make a statement, all he has to do is call, and we will put him on the air. 2-4127 and 3-9245 [Radio Liberte telephone numbers]. Mr President, we await your call. [passage omitted]

OK, we just got a report from a person who was out in the vicinity of the Leopards' [camp]. There are Leopards in position every 200 meters in front of the camp, and they are waiting for the men with the tanks. [passage omitted]

In other words, we have confirmed a situation that [words indistinct] and they confirm that General Avril and Acedius are prisoners inside the Leopards' camp.

Thus, we are reporting the news. They say there is a boat coming to help the tank men to go and show up [al debake]. We blacks of Haiti await this (?vessel). [passage omitted] We hear they are awaiting reinforcements.

This is a Haitian matter. The solution must be a Haitian solution, even if (?freedom of speech is curtailed). [passage omitted] So what if Serge Beaulieu falls? He will fall a hero, reporting to you. [passage omitted]

We are not going to get involved in their problems. However, if they are waiting for foreigners to come and land in Haiti, well, they are going to be (?confronted by) the entire population. Foreigners are not going to land here in order to [word indistinct] little blacks in power [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

The information that Radio Liberte and Serge Beaulieu gives you.... [Beaulieu changes thought] And it is I who is directing the reports. [passage omitted] We tell you that the Leopards are in positions 200 meters apart. They are awaiting the tanks and reinforcements (?mentioned). If there is time. [passage omitted]

Tanks at National Palace

FL0204183689 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1709 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Monitored in progress—live]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified mobile unit reporter] ...National Palace, where we see that everything is calm. We see that there are several military vehicles in the vicinity of the Dessalines Barracks. We also see tanks in front of the palace. There is a tank in front of the palace and there is a crowd of curious spectators in the vicinity of the National Palace.

As for the Army General Headquarters, all its doors are closed at present. (?Only the second-story doors are open.) There isn't a lot of activity there. The vehicle of the Army commander in chief, a burgandy Pajero [jeep] is in front of the Army General Headquarters.

The center of town is very quiet. Quieter than usual, for a Sunday. [passage omitted] However, traffic is normal for a Sunday in the Lalue area. [passage omitted] The Champ de Mars is deserted at this time. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] We want to tell [mobile unit reporter] Morisson Charles, who is out in the streets right now, that he may have the air, so he can tell us what is happening in the area he is in and the areas he visited, so as to be able to tell us what is happening in the streets of Port-au-Prince today, Sunday, where since early this morning rumors have been circulating to the effect that a coup d'etat has overthrown General Prosper Avril—despite the fact that several military men came to Radio Soleil a while ago to inform us that General Avril is in the palace.

We invite Morisson Charles to give us his report:

[Charles] In the airport area, the airport road is totally deserted. The barricade they had erected in front of the airport has now been removed. However, the airport remains closed, with well-armed soldiers in front of the door and airport security soldiers still out in front of the airport. [passage omitted] As for the other military posts, such as the Cafeteria [police post on the Grand Rue in downtown Port-au-Prince], everyone is still forbidden to pass in front of them. Downtown, everyone is going about his business. At the Croix Bossales marketplace everyone is going about his business.

Thus, things look very calm. Life looks normal, like any other Sunday. [passage omitted]

For the time being, there are small groups in front of people's houses, talking among themselves; and a few people walking around, normally. We also noticed several soldiers walking in the streets, with weapons in hand. They are walking around normally. There are also a number of military patrols, in jeeps and other vehicles. However, we don't see any tanks in the streets right now. We saw just one tank, in the courtyard of the National Palace. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified mobile unit reporter] There were many barricades made of tires erected, such as around the Dessalines Barracks. They have now been sort of scattered. We don't know exactly why—whether they removed them, or whether it was passersby or passing vehicles that removed them. The upper part of town, around the Bourdon area, is also normal for a Sunday, although people are quite apprehensive. You see people in front of their doors sort of checking to see what the streets are like, because up to now there has been no sure report on what was said before or what was said later about what happened this morning in Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti.

[Announcer] [Passage omitted] Among the military transferred [last week] is Colonel Lionel Claude, who is reportedly at the root of this coup d'etat, according to rumors circulating since early this morning.

We must also point out that it seems there was an attempt to loot the residence of Colonel Acedius St Louis.

Also, as we said, a group of five soldiers said that General Avril has not left the palace—that he is still there, in the National Palace.

The time is 1316 at Radio Soleil.

'Source': Avril 'Still in Control'

PA0204180689 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1732 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Report by Edwige Balutanski]

[Excerpts] Port-au-Prince, 2 Apr (REUTER)—Haiti is in a state of confusion today as the result of an apparent coup d'etat and some government sources' statements that President Avril has been ousted, while other sources insist that Avril is still in control of the country.

"Gen Avril is at the palace and is in control of the situation," according to a high government source, who said that a declaration would soon be issued.

Nevertheless, other sources close to the government and the military said that Avril was ousted in a military coup and that a three-member junta would be appointed soon. [passage omitted]

Likewise, Radio Liberte, a radio station that supports former dictator Jean Claude Duvalier, broadcast a soldiers' declaration which says that Avril is still at the palace. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Arrested

PA0204185489 Paris AFP in Spanish 1825 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 2 Apr (AFP)—Haitian Information Minister Anthony St Pierre was apparently arrested today in Port-au-Prince where, according to still unconfirmed rumors, General Prosper Avril—president of the military government—has been ousted.

According to reliable sources, St Pierre was apparently taken to the Army's elite Leopards' Battalion camp and his house was ransacked.

Arrest of St Pierre Denied

PA0204201189 Paris AFP in Spanish 1951 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 2 Apr (AFP)—Haitian Information Minister Anthony St Pierre is not in Haiti and he has not been arrested, members of his family have said in this capital.

Previous reports had stated that the minister was arrested during a coup d'etat against General Prosper Avril, president of the military government, as widely varying rumors circulate through the capital.

The minister's relatives also denied that his house had been ransacked.

Presidential Guard Frees Avril

PA0204192489 Paris AFP in Spanish 1856 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 2 Apr (AFP)—General Prosper Avril, president of the Haitian military government who was arrested at his home last night by members of the antiguerrilla Leopards' Battalion, has been freed by Presidential Guard members and taken back to the National Palace—where he is right now—a member of the Presidential Guard told AFP outside Gen Avril's private residence.

Gen Avril's release occurred en route to the international airport where he was being taken to be sent abroad, probably to the Dominican Republic, the soldier stated.

Coup Attempt Said Thwarted

FL0204210589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1820 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] [Reporter Yves-Marie] [Words indistinct] Radio Soleil. Well, according to the latest information we have received, according to a U.S. Embassy source, the situation has been reversed, in favor of General Avril. According to this same source, Gen Avril is presently in the National Palace.

Also, a number of high-ranking officers from the Army General Headquarters who had not been called in this morning were summoned, at approximately 1300, to their posts.

[Announcer] Just before talking about the statement the soldiers made this morning—or even before we got this information from a U.S. Embassy source, soldiers had already said that Gen Avril was at the National Palace—we must point out that this news of a coup d'etat had already been announced abroad. There were telephone calls abroad from Port-au-Prince, in which people said that there had indeed been a coup. However, as Yves-Marie just said, it seems they were able to frustrate the coup. Let's listen to the statement by the soldiers about this.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] So there has been a rumor circulating since this morning... [corrects himself] since last night, in the capital, in provincial towns, and even abroad. They say that the government is no longer there. So we have come to give the lie to both AFP and whoever told them. President Avril is still in the National Palace.

[First unidentified reporter] You mention a rumor circulating. Did anything happen during the night? There was much activity, and many sources confirm that something happened.

[Speaker] No, listen Sir, the question you are asking me is a beautiful question [li bel]. It is a good question for a journalist to ask. However, I cannot answer it. I have told you all I know. I am saying that President Avril, whom they say is no longer there, is at this moment in the National Palace.

[Reporter] Do you also admit that the road to the airport is blocked? That there are tanks (?coming back into town) on it?

[Speaker] Well, you know that since 7 February, the Armed Forces has always had a job to do. That doesn't necessarily mean.... [changes thought] Whether there is anything going on or not, (?tanks) may circulate, you see? Some people think that when a tank is in the streets, it is there for a reason. Tanks may circulate! They may patrol!

[Second unidentified reporter] There was much gunfire heard this morning. Where was this shooting? And wasn't this for a reason?

[Speaker] This always occurs (?in) military camps. Soldiers may (?gather). They may play. They have a right to possess certain things. They may fire off weapons (?accidentally).

[First reporter] OK. However, there was some gunfire near Colonel Acedius St Louis' house.

[Second reporter] And his house was also looted.

[First reporter] (?Therefore)?

[Speaker] Col Acedius is the minister of interior. He is at the top. We ourselves are at the bottom. We might not know exactly what goes on at his house.

[First reporter] OK, well, gentlemen, were you at the National Place this morning?

[Several voices, answering simultaneously] Yes.

[Second unidentified speaker] Yes, we were all at the National Palace.

[Second reporter] And was everything calm at the palace?

[Several voices, answering simultaneously] Yes, everything was calm. Everything.

[First reporter] So, that means that the only thing you can say is that Gen Avril is in the palace. You don't know anything about anything else?

[Several voices, answering simultaneously] Right. We don't know about the other stuff.

[First speaker] However, the only thing we know is that President Avril is indeed in the palace! [end recording]

According to testimony we have collected from people we have contacted, the situation has been reversed, in favor of Gen Prosper Avril, who is in the National Palace—according to the soldiers and other sources we contacted.

However, we must remind listeners that the residents of downtown Port-au-Prince awakened before dawn to the sound of much gunfire from heavy-caliber weapons—and also to find tanks in the streets. This gave rise to much anxiety in the city, for such loud shooting has not been heard in Port-au-Prince for some time now.

The first report circulating this morning, which was never officially confirmed, was that the Avril government had been overthrown. Lieutenant Colonel Lionel Claude was allegedly heading the movement, supported by the Leopards' Battalion and the Dessalines Barracks.

Also, there was much shooting from heavy-caliber weapons at around 0500 this morning in the Champ de Mars area. The shooting lasted more than 10 minutes. The residents of the Debussy and Pacot areas were also awakened by the sound of heavy-caliber gunfire, fired while the military were allegedly on their way to pick up Colonel Acedius St Louis—whom circulating rumors claimed was imprisoned along with Gen Avril at the Leopards' Battalion [headquarters, on the Freres Road in Petion-Ville].

Very early this morning soldiers encircled the Army General Headquarters, which remained closed during the entire 1st part of the day.

As for the members of the General Staff, the men trying to stage the coup d'etat allegedly never called on them to help. However, we must point out that around midday these men were summoned to Army General Headquarters.

There were also reports circulating this morning to the effect that there was negotiating going on with foreign governments in connection with this matter of a coup d'etat. There were rumors of several different formulas and juntas circulating this morning.

However, the other news report that stuck in people's minds was the report to the effect that General Abraham, the temporary commander in chief of the Army, had, when asked to do so, refused to head the new government. That was the report circulating.

Thus, the latest report is that the situation has shifted [ranvese], in favor of Gen Prosper Avril. We have still other details.

[Yves-Marie] What we have, Venel [Soleil announcer], aren't further details but rather the situation in one provincial city. One of our correspondents, who is in Cap-Haitien, is going to tell us what the situation is like in Cap-Haitien. This is the first correspondent to call us since the news spread throughout Haiti.

James St Julien, can you tell us exactly how things are in Cap-Haitien?

[St Julien] Thank you, studio. Well, there has been no reaction in Cap-Haitien to this news. The only thing is that people are very tense. They are following events, listening to the news and watching television, in order to obtain information on what is going on—(?trying to obtain) accurate information about this coup d'etat.

Compared to past coups, we can say that the population is very calm. There is nothing going on. Everyone is going about his business normally. They are going to church because, they say, today is Sunday.

[Venel] Can you tell us what the military situation is in Cap-Haitien, James? And what kind of activity is taking place in the Cap-Haitien harbor?

[James] Well, there have been no measures taken in this connection. The only thing I saw was one military vehicle patrolling, all over town, this morning. But no other measures have been taken in this connection.

[Venel] We must also point out that, as in Cap-Haitien, the population of Port-au-Prince has remained practically indifferent to the reports circulating this morning—except that we saw several groups of people gathered in the street in front of the National Palace this morning. These people said they were waiting to find out exactly what had happened. This is Radio Soleil. The time is 1426.

Press Release on Coup Attempt

FL0204214889 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 2056 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Monitored in progress]

[Excerpt] ...coordination. We will read this press release for you.

The Information Directorate of the Ministry of Information and Coordination informs the public that certain Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] officers invaded the National Palace during the night of 1 and 2 April 1989 and tried to forcibly overthrow the government of Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, FADH—says the press release from the Ministry of Information and Coordination.

The press release announces, furthermore, that Lt Gen Prosper Avril, FADH, is in control of the situation, guarantees the civil peace and the security of lives and property, and asks the population to go about its business normally.

The chief of state will speak to the nation sometime during the evening of Sunday, 2 April 1989.

We repeat for you this press release, which we have just received in our newsroom.

Press release from the Ministry of Information and Coordination. [passage omitted]

Avril's Relatives, Others Released

PA0304010589 Paris AFP in Spanish 0034 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 2 Apr (AFP)—Five persons—General Prosper Avril's son, his two brothers, Interior and Defense Minister Colonel Acedius St Louis, and one of his children—who were being held at the military camp of the antiguerrilla Leopards' Battalion, were released today. AFP was told this by a group of Leopard soldiers guarding the garrison on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince.

The battalion was the main group that participated in the foiled coup d'etat against Gen Avril, president of the Haitian military government.

"Everything is in order, and calm has been restored," the soldiers said, noting that only part of the battalion participated in the foiled coup, while another part was opposed to it.

Creation of Electoral Council Announced

PA0204135789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0854 GMT 2 Apr 89

[By Michel Lamisere]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 2 Apr (EFE)—In spite of the confusion that exists in the country, the military government of General Prosper Avril has announced the creation of an Electoral Council that will organize the elections to take place soon in Haiti.

According to a communique issued by the Information Ministry, the Electoral Council was created through a decree issued on 31 March by means of which the government ratified the appointment of the council's nine members.

The council members are: Joseph Lesperance, representing the Executive Branch; Gabriel Augustin, the Supreme Court of Justice; Jacques Jovin, the Protestant Church; Louis Antoine Auguste, the Episcopal Conference (Catholic Church); Max Lelio Joseph, the labor sector; Jean Gerard Pierre, human rights organizations; Rony Durand, Haiti's State University Council; Pauris Jean-Baptiste, the Association of Haitian Journalists; and Archange Leon, the National Council of Cooperatives.

The appointment of most of these representatives met no opposition, but there was some criticism regarding the appointment of a few. The appointees represent a provisional steering committee. Their duties will end with the inauguration of the president-elect.

The Electoral Council members will be sworn in at the Supreme Court on Tuesday, 4 April. News of the creation of the Electoral Council has as yet evoked no response.

Meanwhile, radio stations broadcast a speech delivered by former President Leslie Manigat (before leaving the United States for a European tour) in which he called for a referendum on whether he should resume his duties as president, a post to which he was elected for a 5-year period that was interrupted by the military coup of 20 June 1988.

Army Officers Discharged; Commands Reshuffled

Officers Linked to Drugs

FL0104141389 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] What is happening in the Haitian Army? That is the big question being asked today. In any case, four high-ranking Army officers have been discharged, and there has been a big reshuffling of other authorities.

Although the nation's highest authorities have not officially announced these measures—much less the reasons why they might have taken them—several different

sources say that these discharges and transfers are related to drug trafficking and that they are also closely connected with the latest visit to Haiti of the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for Caribbean affairs, Richard Melton. Here is Yves-Marie [Soleil reporter] with further details.

[Yves-Marie] Four officers were discharged Wednesday from the Haitian Army. According to several different sources, these officers—Lieutenant Colonel Lionel Liautaud, who was deputy commander of the Armed Forces Supply Center; Lieutenant Colonels Paul Rosny Casimir and Serge Toussaint, who were both officers assigned to the General Inspector's Office; and Lieutenant Colonel Antoine Jean-Gilles, who was deputy commander of the Dessalines Barracks—were reportedly discharged because they were involved in drug trafficking.

These same sources say these discharges are closely linked with the visit to Port-au-Prince of the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for Caribbean affairs, Richard Melton, last 27-28 March. The sources say Richard Melton gave Prosper Avril a list of Army officers involved in drug trafficking. They say former Colonel Gary Leon fingered several of the officers during his drug trial in New York.

We have learned that still more Army officers may be discharged for these same reasons in the coming days.

In connection with these discharges, many Army officers have been transferred.

Lieutenant Colonel Ernest Prud'homme, who was the commanding officer of the Military Department of the Northwest, has been transferred and made the commander of the Military Department of the South.

Colonel Hebert Valmond has been transferred from the Haitian Navy to the line service. He was the commanding officer, the officer in charge of the anticontraband brigades; he has now been named commander of the Military Department of the Northwest.

Lieutenant Colonel Alix Silva, who was assigned to the Army General Headquarters, has been made the commander of the Army School of Instruction [camp d'application].

Lieutenant Colonel Romuald Achilles, who was the commander of the Army school of instruction, has been transferred to the Army General Headquarters.

Lieutenant Colonel (Alcenat Ulysse), who was commander of the Military Department of the Center, has been called back to the Army General Headquarters. He has been replaced in the central plateau by Major Ludovic Rene.

Lieutenant Colonel Carrel Occil has been transferred from his position as commander of the Military Department of the North back to the Army General Headquarters. He has been replaced as commander of the Military Department of the North by Lieutenant Colonel Max Mayard, who was commander of the Military Department of the South.

Lieutenant Colonel Lionel Claude, who was the deputy commander of the Leopards Corps, has been transferred to the Army General Headquarters. He has been replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Guy Max Menard, who was in the Port-au-Prince Police.

Lieutenant Colonel Frantz Douby, who was in the inspection service [servis enspeksyon] at the Army General Headquarters, has been made deputy commander of the Dessalines Barracks.

[Announcer] Well, in this same connection, we remind listeners that the president of the neighborhood committees in Cap-Haitien, Mr (Max Montreuil), had said that several soldiers from the tactical corps in the North were working together with the drug dealers in Cap-Haitien. (Montreuil) said these soldiers from the tactical unit were supporting the drug dealers in the wave of persecution the latter had undertaken against all press correspondents, who have had much trouble lately reporting on drug-related activities in Cap-Haitien.

The Cap-Haitien neighborhood committees (?have also issued) a press release in which they put the authorities on the track of all the members of the Armed Forces who are involved in drug trafficking in Cap-Haitien. According to the neighborhood committees, this information that they have given the authorities will allow the authorities to trace their way back up a number of drug networks—if the authorities really want to stop drug trafficking in Haiti and prevent Cap-Haitien from continuing to be a crossroads for drugs.

In this vein, the [federation of] neighborhood committees says it is never guilty of the sin of pride. It is therefore again bowing its head and issuing a plea for help to the rest of Haiti in connection with two big problems we are encountering here, in the Department of the North: drugs—which has now linked up with the second problem—insecurity.

The neighborhood committees say further that there are several drug cartels in Cap-Haitien. Among the cartels, one is more radical and more aggressive than the others—because they know that they have several members in the tactical unit in Cap-Haitien who will help them commit the criminal acts they began committing a while back against all patriots and all radio reporters denouncing drug trafficking in Cap-Haitien.

Further on in its note, the committee says: After the neighborhood committees denounced all this bad stuff, certain members of the tactical unit in Cap-Haitien

immediately decided to teach the neighborhood committees in Cap-Haitien a lesson. During a demonstration the neighborhood committees had organized to protest power failures, the high cost of living, and the climate of insecurity, these criminals went out into the streets and trampled everyone they were able to lay a hand on, beating them with billy clubs and clubbing them with Uzi butts.

The neighborhood committees ask the entire country to rise up to make General Avril's government restore Articles 42.1, 42.2, and 42.3 of the Constitution. These articles say that when a member of the Armed Forces commits a criminal act against the nation or against a civilian, he is not to be tried by a military court but by a civilian court.

The neighborhood committees say that it is never content to merely criticize, and give the authorities who are in a position to put the disorder back in order the following advice, which the authorities might find helpful:

The neighborhood committees say: If you want to know which members of the Armed Forces are involved with drugs, begin by trying to find out where and how the drug dealers are getting their weapons. On 15 March 1989, who assembled all those members of the tactical unit in front of the house of the drug dealer who is persecuting people in Cap-Haitien in order to protect the dealer?

The committees continue: Who were the authorities who were in the habit of going up to Labadie to deal in drugs, baskets in hand? And, (?in connection with) these same (?two) dealers, who were the authorities who went to plot against the population at the Hotel Universal, still with these same drug dealers?

(?Regarding) dealers, the neighborhood committees say to the authorities that if they wish to trace their way back up the networks, they should begin by trying to find out how the landing strip that the drug planes land on was built. Who did the work? And who paid for it?

As regards certain members of the tactical unit in Cap-Haitien who are acting as if they were a gang, as if they were mercenaries, the population says they will leave that up to the head of the Army—until they can't stand it any longer. At that point, they will form their own vigilance brigades.

They add that they themselves, the members of the neighborhood committees in Cap-Haitien, have decided to give the authorities concerned an opportunity to clean up this business themselves. However, if this doesn't work, despite (?these authorities), they are going to begin an international campaign, because everyone knows that drugs threaten the existence of the entire world; and, closer to home, Haiti; and, even closer to home than that, Cap-Haitien and all the children of Cap-Haitien residents.

There, then, were a few bits of advice that the members of the neighborhood committees in Cap-Haitien gave the Haitian authorities—in case the authorities really intend to put an end to this business of drugs in Haiti, and in case they really want to stop Cap-Haitien from becoming a crossroads for drugs.

Thus the committees point out the way to trace and identify members of the Armed Forces involved in drugs and drug dealers, causing trouble and preventing journalists from reporting on drug-related activity in Cap-Haitien.

More on Army Changes

FL0104151289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Still in connection with the reshuffle in the Army effected this week, we have learned that Lieutenant Colonel Marie Alix Rene, deputy commander at police headquarters in Port-au-Prince, is also going to head the anticontraband brigades. Also, Colonel Jean-Claude Duperval has been appointed chief of the new antidrug service, the Narcotics Service—a service that has nothing to do with the Criminal Investigations Department [now called the Investigation and Antigang Service]

New Narcotics Service Described

FL0104151989 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Narcotics Service recently created within the Haitian Armed Forces is different from the narcotics bureau that already existed within the Port-au-Prince Department and from the Information and Coordination Center, the CIC [Centre d'Information et Coordination], which is in charge of providing information about drugs.

A well-informed and reliable source tells us that the Narcotics Service and the CIC are going to be working together to eliminate drug trafficking throughout Haiti.

For its part, the CIC is now being headed by Major Antoine Atouriste, who has replaced Lieutenant Colonel Philippe Carrenard. Lt Col Carrenard has been transferred.

We remind listeners that four high-ranking Haitian Army officers have been discharged from the Haitian Armed Forces: Lieutenant Colonels Serge Toussaint; Lionel Liautaud, from the Army General Headquarters; Antoine Jean-Gilles, from the Dessalines Barracks; and Rosny Casimir, from the Military Department of the West. All these officers were lieutenant colonels, and were discharged—we were told—for the good of the service.

Costa Rica

Garron Discusses Nicaragua Border Incidents

EPS Killing of Youth Protested

PA3103231589 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2236 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] San Jose, 31 Mar (DPA)—Costa Rican Public Security Minister Hernan Garron reported this afternoon that "the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) killed a 22-year-old Costa Rican whom the EPS arrested 1 week ago on Costa Rican territory near San Carlos River."

Garron, who was visibly irritated, said at a news conference that "Costa Rica will immediately send a protest note to the Nicaraguan Government."

Marcos Carrillo Castillo, who lived in the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border region, is the young man who was killed.

Garron stressed: "There are witnesses who reported that Carrillo was killed by a Sandinist soldier whose last name is Lorido."

The minister commented: "It seems outrageous that this news is reported while the Central American foreign ministers are meeting in San Jose."

Garron also said: "Last night, people in a Costa Rican border town called 'Delta 7' were alarmed when the place was fired upon from Nicaragua for more than 10 minutes, in a clear harassment action."

In conclusion, Garron said: "The Costa Rican Government is asking Nicaragua to return Carrillo's body."

Joint Patrols Discontinued

PA0104013489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0027 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Excerpts] San Jose, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican Public Security Minister Hernan Garron today said the joint supervision along the border with Nicaragua by patrols from the two countries, which began in late 1988, "no longer has a reason to exist."

Garron based his statement [decision] on a new Central American agreement that has been reached in principle with the the United Nations for an international peace force to be in charge of security along the border areas between Honduras and El Salvador and between Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

The remarks, made during a news conference, were noteworthy because they came after he reported the killing of a young Costa Rican by the EPS and the firing on a Costa Rican Civil Police border post from Nicaraguan territory. [passage omitted]

The Costa Rican minister said that 2 days ago he received a letter from Nicaraguan Ambassador to Costa Rica Raul Arana, informing him that the case of arrested Costa Rican citizen "Mr Marco Carrillo is bit confused; therefore, it is impossible to return him yet."

However, Major Sanchez, chief of Nicaragua's Southern Command, told Commissioner Franklin Vilchez, Civil Guard chief at La Cruz border post, that Marcos Carrillo had been accidentally killed.

According to the Nicaraguan version, Carrillo had tried to disarm an officer named Lorido, and "Lorido's weapon had gone off."

Maj Sanchez said Carrillo was buried on 23 March in Colon and that the officers under Sanchez' command will provide Carrillo's relatives all the facilities "to reclaim the body." [passage omitted]

Honduras

Armed Forces Thwart Alleged EPS Operation

PA3103162789 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 31 Mar 89 p 9

[Text] The Honduran Armed Forces intelligence corps yesterday thwarted "Operation Summer 89," a Sandinist People's Army [EPS] plan to sabotage and pillage towns on the Honduras-Nicaragua border.

A military source made this announcement, adding that 15 days ago an EPS battalion stationed in Somoto was deployed to the eastern part of Honduras, and en route they were joined by 300 men who were instructed to wear U.S. Army and contra uniforms.

According to the source, of the 300 men, 50 entered Honduran towns—among them Alauca, Samayares, Oropoli, and Santa Maria—where they carried out sabotage and pillage in the hope that residents would blame the contras and retaliate against them.

Moreover, he added, five men had the audacity to enter the 6th Infantry Batallion's positions in Ojo de Agua to make a sketch of the 110th Infantry Brigade's exact location to establish the actual location of Honduran troops in that sector.

The source said the Sandinists who entered Honduran territory used booby traps to carry out their actions and were equipped with assault weapons, RPG's, and AK-47 machineguns.

To conclude, the source said "Operation Summer 89" was scheduled to begin yesterday, 30 March, but the Armed Forces are constantly on alert to avoid any wrongful actions and to guarantee national integrity and sovereignty.

Envoy on 'New Spirit' in Relations With U.S.
PA3103214689 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 31 Mar 89

["Exclusive" interview with Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, Honduran ambassador to the United States, by unidentified reporter at the Honduran Embassy in Washington; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr Ambassador, I understand that upon your return from the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] meeting in the Netherlands, you met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

[Hernandez] On Monday, actually, I was called to the State Department to meet with Secretary Baker. During this meeting he explained the content and meaning of the bipartisan plan announced by President Bush last Friday.

[Reporter] Did you meet with other State Department officials after your meeting with Baker, and was the meeting between just you and Baker or were there other Central American ambassadors present?

[Hernandez] The meeting was between the Honduran ambassador and the U.S. secretary of state. That day I also met with the assistant secretary in charge of Latin American affairs. I did not hold any other meetings until the following day, when I met with representatives from Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Honduras to inform them...

[Reporter, interrupting] Yes, but did the four ambassadors meet with Baker again?

[Hernandez] No. The Central American ambassadors' meeting was with Assistant Secretary of State [name indistinct].

[Reporter] What was Secretary of State Baker like? Was he [words indistinct]? He must be very pleased with his achievements in Congress.

[Hernandez] I believe his attitude was very positive. Of course he is pleased that the efforts he has devoted to the Central American issue have resulted in decisive achievements, such as the agreements between Republicans and Democrats, and between the U.S. Government and the Legislative Branch. I believe this has been a very important achievement for Baker, and he expressed his satisfaction.

[Reporter] What is the Honduran Government's official position on the agreement between the White House and Congress?

[Hernandez] The Honduran Government's opinion is that the bipartisan agreement is an important achievement. The Central American presidents view this agreement as decisive support from Congress as well as from the U.S. President. We welcome the bipartisan agreement; we believe it will allow the United States to contribute to the peace, democracy, and security process underway in the Central American region with a much broader perspective. The bipartisan plan has, in addition to clear objectives and clear means of achieving those objectives, a legitimacy previously lacking in the U.S. Government's foreign policy toward Central America, because there have been internal divisions in U.S. policy in the past. The agreement allows the United States to communicate a unified policy, which is also a very important achievement.

The Honduran Government also regards as a positive development the U.S. and Soviet Governments' priority treatment of Central American regional conflicts. Honduras had insisted on this for several years; it had made proposals and specific requests in this regard through Foreign Minister Lopez Contreras in 1987 and 1988, and I hope the State Department officials with whom I met will actually make progress on the regional issues at hand. These officials say that they are making very great efforts to change their policies and that they are waiting to see the USSR's changed policies and the political solutions the USSR will seek to resolve the Central American crisis.

[Reporter] Mr Ambassador, many important visits are being made. Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez is arriving in Washington, and Costa Rican President Arias Sanchez will also make a stopover in Washington to meet with President Bush en route to Canada next week. Right after that, Salvadoran President-elect Cristiani will be visiting. A great deal of discussion on Central America is going on at this time between the Bush government and the region's democratic governments.

[Hernandez] The Bush administration has undoubtedly made the Central American region one of its foreign policy priorities. At Bush's inauguration it was said that Central America and the Middle East would be two of the regions the administration would focus on, but it was not quite clear at that time which of the two would first be given attention. The tension that exists in the Central American region has made that area stand out prominently, and Secretary Baker and President Bush have devoted an enormous amount of time to regional issues and have personally attempted to redefine U.S. policy toward Central America and to find a political solution.

The visits that will take place this and next week are proof of the U.S. Government's continued interest not only in the critical situation in Central America but in other issues, issues that President Bush and Secretary Baker have been discussing with the different Latin American presidents who have visited them.

I would say that the foreign debt is the second most important issue; it worries all of us. The third most important issue is drug trafficking. Central American regional conflicts, the foreign debt, and drug trafficking

are the three priorities within the U.S. Government's Central American policy. The presence of President Perez—who for the second time within 2 and ½ months will meet with President Bush—and President Arias in the United States indicates that by next week Bush will have met with four Central American presidents and he will have met with the new Salvadoran president-elect. All of this undoubtedly demonstrates the U.S. Government's interest in Latin American relations.

[Reporter] To conclude, Mr Ambassador, to what do you attribute the various meetings between the Honduran Embassy and the State Department, and between the Honduran Embassy and the Republican and Democratic congressional leaders? Why this recent intense activity?

[Hernandez] I believe that these meetings have taken place as a result of our current situation. When the president designated me for this mission, I had with me very clear instructions to create a new relationship with both the Republican and Democratic wings of the U.S. Congress. We have been working very intensely to create this new relationship.

Regarding our relations with the State Department, the current situation demands a series of consultations between the Honduran and U.S. Governments such as that launched at the highest level with a visit by President Azcona to then President-elect Bush, who was already stressing—as I said before—the importance he would give to the U.S. Government's friendship with Honduras. This was followed by a visit by Foreign Minister Lopez Contreras to Secretary Baker in February and, finally, a meeting at the highest level between the Honduran Embassy and the Department of State. There have been, as I explained a short while ago, verious meetings with the secretary of state, the assistant secretary [words indistinct], and the State Department officials dealing specifically with Latin American affairs. Honduras sees in all of this a new spirit in U.S.-Honduran relations. Our relations have been raised to a high level, the U.S. Government has behaved very respectfully, and Honduras is trying to keep these relations with the United States at the highest level.

Nicaragua

Ortega Asks Leaders To Reject Contra Aid

PA0104022789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0130 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Managua, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Official sources reported today that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega asked his fellow Central American leaders to reject the U.S. decision to grant funds to the contras for another 11 months.

Ortega's "urgent" request to the area's leaders is contained in a letter he sent to them on Thursday and which was released in Managua tonight.

The Nicaraguan head of state stressed that the U.S. policy of granting more aid to the rebels "endangers the Central American peace process." On 24 March, the U.S. Executive Branch and Congress signed a bipartisan agreement to grant $45 million in "humanitarian aid" to the contras to end in February 1990.

Ortega said that the U.S. decision to continue to finance the contras, in addition to violating international law, threatens the implementation of the plan agreed upon by the five Central American presidents in El Salvador to demobilize the rebels within a 90-day period.

"The Nicaraguan Government," Ortega emphasized, "regards as unacceptable and objectionable" the bipartisan agreement, "which must be urgently rejected" by the area's leaders.

Ortega insisted that the demobilization, repatriation, or relocation of the contras who are in Honduran territory "continues to be our main goal and will be put into practice" before 14 May.

Opposition, Contras To Meet in Guatemala 7 May

PA0104193489 Paris AFP in Spanish 0644 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Managua, 31 Mar (AFP)—Representatives of 14 Nicaraguan opposition parties will meet with contra leaders in Guatemala on 7 May, according to an announcement made today in Managua by Conservative Party leader Hernaldo Zuniga.

In statements to AFP, the political leader said that the group of 14 opposition parties received an invitation from Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo to hold the meeting in Guatemala.

On 15 March, the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) Directorate proposed an open-agenda meeting with the political opposition to discuss matters relating to the Sandinist regime's compliance with the agreements signed at the Central American presidential summit in El Salvador.

The civic opposition leadership met on Friday, 31 March, to prepare a joint alternative with a view to the electoral campaign, which will conclude with general elections in February 1990.

Zuniga stated that a representative from each of the opposition coalition parties will attend the meeting in Guatemala.

Feeling 'Abandoned,' Contra Commander Resigns

PA3103153389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0807 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Washington, 31 Mar (EFE)—Bosco Matamoros, Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] spokesman in Washington, today told EFE that Juan Rivas Romero, chief of staff of the contra forces, has resigned in Honduras.

Rivas, the legendary contra commander who, among other things, led the Jorge Salazar unit—the largest rebel unit—and directed the operation at Muelle de los Bueyes, yesterday sent a letter to the other contra commanders in which he submitted his "irrevocable" resignation.

Matamoros explained that Rivas is "suffering from a spinal problem for which he must be treated for 7 or 8 months." He admitted, however, that Rivas has been affected by the changes in U.S. policy toward Nicaragua and the recent decision by the rebels' commission on human rights to expel six fighters for involvement in torture and other abuses.

"We are human and all of these developments are affecting us," Matamoros said. [passage omitted]

"The contra fighters feel abandoned. Eight years of struggle are wiped out because the United States says so. You are an officer in the field but you are in charge of nothing," Rivas said in his letter.

Matamoros confirmed that "Romero is deeply concerned about his troops' problems."

The contras' human rights tribunal, which has received U.S. $700,000 since 1986, voted on 24 March to expel Jose Benito Bravo Centeno, chief of intelligence of the rebel movement.

Rebel sources said that Rivas was summoned to testify in the trial of the intelligence chief but refused to do so.

Bravo and the other five contra fighters have appealed to the RN political leadership.

"The leadership will have to review these cases, their repercussions, and the reasons for Rivas' resignation," Matamoros said.

The contras have remained inactive in their camps in Honduras since February 1988, when the U.S. Congress suspended its military aid to them. The Central American presidents have promised to draw up a plan before 16 May to demobilize the contras, to repatriate them to Nicaragua, or to relocate them in third countries.

Contras Want Safe-Conduct Passes for Return

PA0104154489 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0602 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] San Jose, 31 Mar (REUTER)—In a letter that was made public today, the contras asked the Central American governments to consider the possibility of issuing safe-conduct passes to the contras so they can return to Nicaragua.

Contra leaders Wilfredo Montalvan and Roberto Ferrey made this request in a letter sent to the foreign ministers of the Central American countries meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Reporters were given copies of the letter sent by the Nicaraguan rebels.

The letter points out that many Nicaraguans would be willing to return to their country to take part in the political process; however, the spokesmen add, they lack valid [identification and travel] documents.

The letter states: "We propose that the ministers consider the possibility of creating a document, or a safe-conduct pass, which might be issued to Nicaraguans...so that these people will be allowed to engage freely in political activities with guarantees provided by the Central American governments."

Delegates said that lack of time prevented discussion of the counterrevolutionaries' letter at the foreign ministers conference in San Jose.

Honduran Guerrillas Reportedly Train on Farm

PA3103121289 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Mar 89 p 3

[Text] An undetermined number of Hondurans and Salvadorans are receiving military training on the Apaji Cattle Farm, which used to be owned by the Lovo Cordero family, 3 km west of Ocotal, on the road to Macuelizo, Nueva Segovia Department.

Persons living near the farm have reported that the trainees are the so-called "Cinchoneros," a guerrilla group that operates in Honduras. They live in several houses maintained by the Interior Ministry. One of the houses was inhabited by the pro-Batista Cuban Luis Diez.

The sources said that the training of the Honduran and Salvadoran guerrillas is being supervised by expert Sandinists of the Sandinist People's Army 3-12 Light Infantry Brigade. It operates on a magnificent property owned by the general manager of the Yodeco Lumber Mill belonging to Jose Gatlin, of U.S. origin.

The aforementioned guerrillas go around dressed in civilian clothing and drive new government-owned cars. They are protected by State Security, said area residents.

Panama

Government Invites 30 Election Observers

PA0104150089 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 1 Apr 89 p 1

[Article by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] A group of 30 Latin Americans has been chosen by the Panamanian Government as the only authorized observers of the 7 May elections, according to an official spokesman of the Panamanian Electoral Tribunal [TEP].

The spokesman said that the observers are affiliated with the Inter-American Center for Electoral Counseling and Promotion (CAPEL), an organization that has its headquarters in Costa Rica. CAPEL is associated with the Inter-American Human Rights Institute, which also has its headquarters in the Costa Rican capital.

Even though the observers' names were not given, the official said they would have free access to the voting tables. Their job will end once the elections are over, he said.

The spokesman said that the visits of other international observers will not be banned, but warned that the CAPEL group will be the only one approved and supported by the TEP.

The international observers' issue was discussed during a recent visit by South Africa's Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Both he and Panamanian Archbishop Marcos McGrath agreed that the participation of these observers will lend credibility to and help ensure acceptance of the electoral process.

Opposition Accused of Attempt on Duque's Life

PA0204185689 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 2 Apr 89 pp 1-A, 8-A

[By special correspondent Jorge Calvo]

[Text] Sona, Veraguas Province—Members of the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] yesterday sabotaged the structure of the Sona Bridge in an attempt on the life of [National Liberation Coalition (COLINA) presidential candidate] Carlos Duque Jaen during COLINA's tour through Veraguas Province.

Reporters from this newspaper who visited the scene were able to verify the damage to the structure of the bridge over the San Pablo River, which was reported by Alejandro Lopez of the Public Works Ministry [MOP] and Justo Fidel Palacios, Sr.

Palacios said: "The opposition does not know what to do. It feels lost and is conspiring to kill innocent citizens."

"This should not happen in Panama. We should try to help each other and engage in politics in the cleanest possible way," Palacios said, adding that the COLINA rally in Sona was a success despite the incident.

For his part, Raul "Fulo" Eskildsen, Panamanian consul in Thailand, who was at the scene of the incident, told LA REPUBLICA that Ricardo Arias Calderon was seen at the Sona fairgrounds yesterday.

"Arias Calderon's visit to the Sona Fair was a 'cover-up' to hide his real intentions. He personally supervised the sabotage of the bridge in an attempt on the lives of both Duque and [COLINA vice presidential candidate] Ramon Seiro."

"It was all well-planned. Duque's car was supposed to fall through a hole in the bridge, from which several plates had been removed, as the COLINA caravan crossed the bridge over the San Pablo River on its return to Sona. Everyone would have thought it was an accident, because nothing happened when Duque crossed the bridge on the way to Sona. The accident was set to occur early in the evening upon his return. There was not much light and, because of the speed at which the cars were traveling, those inside the vehicles would not have realized that there was a big hole in the bridge," Eskildsen explained.

After pointing out that a fall from the bridge would have been equivalent to falling from the third or fourth floor of a building, Eskildsen said that nobody would have survived the fall.

"Ricardo Arias never counted on two things: first, that MOP engineers constantly inspect these structures; and second, that Duque and Seiro were scheduled to be transported from Sona by helicopter," Eskildsen said.

Noriega Speaks on Corregimiento Representation

PA3103230689 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2030 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Speech by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces, to Chiriqui Province corregimiento representatives at the FDP Wives Association Park in David, Chiriqui, on 31 March—recorded]

[Text] At today's meeting, we have been discussing different topics with the representatives to convince them of their value, importance, and responsibilities.

There should not be any confusion created by the disorganized forces that continue denigrating the representatives' work, existence, and role.

It is necessary to recount today a short history of and provide background on how the corregimiento representation system began.

This system.... [changes thought] That is why we, the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], feel more capable of having the [word indistinct], conviction, knowledge, and coordination of this style of government, because General Omar Torrijos, his advisers, and I myself copied the ideas of functional representation. Before 1968, we had a representation system: the Chamber of Deputies, which responded to the specific interests of the groups in power and the ruling oligarchy. This revolutionary process—it is important we mention this—has changed the representation system in movements such as the ones in the banana regions.

In the past, the representatives of the banana regions obeyed the orders given to them by the banana company's staff of lawyers—in Bocas del Toro Province and Puerto Armuelles. No one could even dream of being a representative in those areas by participating in a traditional election of deputies.

However, that process—which continues to set an example—is proud to have representatives such as the ones in this province, such as Jose Morris in Puerto Armuelles. [long applause] We also have the great qualities of the next representative of Bocas del Toro Province's Atlantic sector. What is he going to represent? He is going to represent his union, his labor force, and the town where the people of that union live. He has to respond to their interests.

So we see that the representation system stems from the situation in the communities. We see that this system is becoming the very center of a community's work. What roles does the representative play in a community? He is the man on whose door people knock to save a sick person, the man on whose door people knock to obtain funds to repair or build an aqueduct, the man who will be a member of a board that builds a stretch of road. What is that? That is the situation of the communities in which we live. As a small country of 2 million residents, our system must respond to a different political system. We cannot be.... [changes thought] The United States is making a mistake through its attempts to impose on us a pattern of conduct or the organization of a government system out of touch with the characteristics of our geographic reality.

The U.S. system falls in line with the geographic reality of its candidates in Panama, but it does not fall in line with our candidates in Panama. As you know, we have here candidates of the U.S. Embassy and candidates of the Panamanian people. I am talking about the candidates of the Panamanian people today. [long ypplause, crowd shouts: "Long live General Noriega!" "Down with the traitors!" "Opposition, get on an airplane!"]

The corregimiento representation system was born this way.... [changes thought]. Before 1968, when I was here working in the 5th Military Zone, we had the system of board meetings, in which the entire community unified to request a permit to hold a bingo game or a dance. That game or dance was the source of funds to help the schools or repair a road. That is the true system of functional representation that prompted Torrijos to adopt it after his return in 1969 [following an unsuccessful coup attempt], when he saw what the support of the people and the unions meant. The oligarchs did not support Torrijos during the 1968 [as heard] coup against him.

It was precisely the community leaders who wanted an organization, who believed in creating an organization, who wanted a different system of government with which to handle problems, and therefore the representative assembly system was born. This system was the most evident and clearest expression of our political organization. During our process of change, that system disappeared. It disappeared because the oligarchy, which today has nominated several of its members as candidates for representatives—although many of them have no idea what popular representation means—made it disappear. The oligarchy attacked the representatives, calling them illiterate and uneducated and all sorts of names. One would think that to be a leader, to guide the people, or to direct a project, one needs to have attended the Sorbonne or to have graduated from Harvard. [applause]

A leader is the Indian from the mountains who never attended school and who represents the needs of his Indian people in the search for an Indian territory. A leader is... [applause] precisely the man who tries, together with his community, to build waterworks, to build a highway, to build a school. To be such a leader, one does not need what the people's enemies are now demanding, just because they themselves have graduated from Oxford or Harvard.

Thus, we now see that the representation system is in decline because it is being destroyed, and the parliamentary system is maintained or is being created. However, the parliamentary system must be improved, because it also has a function, which is to create laws and another, superior level [as heard]. However, these two things are compatible, and that is the reason behind the structural reorganization the next administration must carry out. The next administration will have to seek coordination between the parliament's mission and the most important mission of the honorable representatives of corregimientos, who must canvass the people's needs from each corregimiento.

In La Chorrera, we were saying that this improved methodology makes it possible to have a more realistic budget. Right now, the Planning Ministry and the Legislative Assembly's budget office are preparing the budget. However, people from the towns, the corregimientos, the most helpless areas, always complain that they never receive any benefits, that the public works always end up in certain specific places. By conducting their work in this way, the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives' budget office would present the needs of the 505 or more corregimientos to the Legislative Assembly legislators who, in turn, would discuss this with the Planning Ministry. This is a functional system of a government that should emulate once again the Torrijist attitude of holding consultations and of quickly finding solutions. Quickly finding solutions binds together the legislator and his group of corregimiento representatives, each of whom individually represents the lump sum of all the districts under his jurisdiction.

The corregimiento representatives must be dignified, and they must have a meeting place in Panama City; we already have something in mind, and when they win we will let them in on it. [applause] They must have a place where they can work, where they can have their government advisers, their legislative advisers. Why do we have capabilities for this sytem, some wonder? Because we have worked with you in

this way. FDP civic action is nothing more than the result of the pressure of the corregimiento representatives. I want to include those who, although they belong to other parties and are not here, also know of this system and respect it and have lived with it. The fact that they now have joined another political party does not exclude them from knowledge of this method. However, those who are newly arrived and are being used to just fill up rosters and who want to compete as leaders with you will never understand the system. [laughter]

Therefore, we have a truly valid system of popular representation. Why did it change, decline, or become restricted? Because the system had gained so much strength, so much representation, so much importance, that the oligarchy itself was afraid that this popular representation was excluding the oligarchy from its political jurisdiction, from its political power. That is why it is making use of all maneuvers to neutralize the system. We now see how in the historic account of honorable corregimiento representatives, 70 percent of them had great capabilities, and how they [word indistinct] their communities—particularly the more distant ones—in having had the opportunity of achieving a greater income for their municipalities.

There were municipalities where money flowed. Municipality representatives worked in their areas, but money was not going into the central banking system. Under this system, the corregimiento representation is important economically within each area. As they improve and as there is more order and systematization, the community's economic well-being will improve.

It is impossible to allow those who haul away timber and who deplete forests, to allow a wealthy community to give nothing back to that municipality and its people. A municipality must share the revenues or get something back for its fishing resources.

I believe that you and I are speaking the same language. We are speaking as an FDP that has worked with you. We say that as part of their service and from the moment they agree to follow their mandate, as Constituent Assembly members or representatives, that these men have been slandered and that they have been the targets of the disinformation campaign and the aggression of the enemies of the Panamanian people's liberation. It has been said not only that the representatives are not intellectually fit, but also that they embezzle money.

I wish to say that we know that not a single corregimiento representative who has come before us to ask us to build them a house; we know that not a single corregimiento representative, during this historic phase, who has come to ask for personal favors has thought of anything but of helping their community.

Therefore, we highly appreciate these men; we have great respect for their ethical behavior. We denounce the aggression through the use of slander, the allegation that these men have embezzled money for themselves, embezzled money that was to have been used in projects; these allegations are absolutely false, absolutely false. The best men for the best communities are among the leadership seated here, men who aspire to win in May the right to represent their communities.

Therefore, you should take pride in your work. You should do that and not allow yourself to become confused. Also, we recommend that legislator candidates recognize the value of representatives because—I again repeat a mathematical idea—the successive accumulation of efforts of each corregimiento representative contributes to the success of legislators in each district. There is no greater, definitive, or more severe judge than the community. If a representative misbehaves, the community judges him, because he lives there, he sleeps there.

Another fallacy spread by the aggression is the claim that this process is already 20 years old and that it has gone on long enough. However, the Republic was founded in 1903 and consolidated in 1904 by the Panamanian oligarchy. From 1904 until 1969, the oligarchy imposed its own system of government, imposed its men, imposed its system of ruling, and imposed everything that was necessary in order to sell out the Republic.

Those 65 years in power were precisely what made our people want to turn back. However, there is no turning back. There has been change. Yes, there has been a change, but not prior to 1968. There has not been a change for those to whom change means to reassume power to do what they did from 1904 to 1969. Change has been made—the change at the IFARHU [Human Resources Education and Training Institute] for scholarships for the poor who could never have afforded to study abroad. [applause]

The change is toward instituting an integrated health system. In the past, only 15 people graduated as doctors at the National University each year. In the past there was no support for the orphans of social security beneficiaries. There is change, and that change is the revolutionary process. It did not exist in the past. [applause]

Change is the network of roads that was constructed by this government. Change is the IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] and the INTEL [National Institute of Telecommunications] that belonged to the Power and Light Company at a time when we did not have the telephones that we see now on every road. [applause]

That Power and Light Company served only downtown Panama City, without expansion projects. The change is that any man from any position, whether he is from the interior or from the mountains, can make a long-distance call. That is the change. A humble man could hardly believe that he could enjoy this type of innovation or benefit in his own community. Change is the electric

power system that extends to the remotest areas, and that power is not denied to the opposition; it is the electric power of the people. [applause]

Change is the waterworks, the network of potable water, which brings sanitation to the remotest areas—water at the lowest possible cost, and sometimes it is free. That is a new change. [applause]

Change is that an Indian can sit down in the Legislative Assembly and attend international assemblies representing his country and race without shame, because nowhere in the world does any national assembly have Indian representation. [applause] Change is the opportunity for many of us here to have occupied government positions that previously had been reserved for people with certain surnames.

Change is having the opportunity to be a minister, having been a director of an institution, and—for those who never even had hoped to enter the presidential Palace of the Herons—having become president of the Republic. [applause, cheers for Noriega]

Change is peace—not witch-hunting, not pursuing people with ideologies. Change is having many candidates openly struggling today, after they had been underground because of harassment by the Americans, who said they were communists or ideological enemies of the U.S. sovereignty. That is change. [applause, and cheers for "the change" and "revolutionary people"]

Change is having labor union representatives also struggling for public posts. Change is not having to be afraid of labor union representatives. Change is not being afraid of labor union leaders, who used to be harassed by the National Guard, which was forced to do so by the banana companies. That is change, gentlemen. [applause and cheers: "People's movement"]

Then [3-second break in reception] there are those who say you cannot eat sovereignty. Yes, gentlemen, sovereignty can be eaten. If it had not been for the Torrijos-Carter treaties, the Atlantic and Pacific ports—Cristobal and Balboa—would not have reverted, and how many Panamanians would not be working there? How much does the National Treasury receive from the ships that dock in those ports, which used to be usurped by the United States? That is change. [applause] That is a change of sovereignty. That is a change that can be eaten. The reverted areas are also eaten. The houses are there; the men, the Panamanian citizens are there, living in those houses.

If that had been impossible, the transfer of petroleum from the Pacific to the Atlantic would also be impossible. It would have been impossible to eliminate many acts of aggression or discrimination against the Canal Zone [as heard] employees. Thus, what the Panamanian people do not want, what the FDP do not want is to return to a change of confrontation, a change where the masters of the northern empire tell us when we have to attack other sister nations of Central America. [applause and slogans against "pro-Washington oligarchy"; cheers for the FDP]

The change within the FDP is that they go to Namibia with honor and pride on a peace mission rather than to Nicaragua with dishonor to machinegun the Nicaraguan people. [applause and cheers for the "FDP's international solidarity"]

Thus we are confronted with a reality, a reality of faits accomplis where no one can be deceived any more, where they have reached their last stage of aggression, despair, and threats—they have threatened down to the last corporal, telling him they are going to destroy the law [FDP Law 20] that protects that corporal, who never had a law to protect him.

There is a response to that threat, which is the response of the corporals, who do not belong to the oligarchy, who do not live on Fiftieth Street or in Punta Paitilla [upper-class Panama City neighborhood], but who come from the Panamanian countryside or from the needy Colon Province areas. Those corporals will defend themselves, and they will do so because their social class, their professionalism, and their future and their families' future are at stake.

There is another response to that threat, that confrontation between the friendly and the enemy forces. [applause] [Crowd shouts: "Long live the patriotic military men!]

We also want to discuss the leadership and power struggle. Why does that struggle exist? Why are there more candidates in one single electoral district struggling among themselves against only one opposition candidate? Because natural, popular, and true leadership is found in those parties that have the highest number of leaders. There is a struggle for leadership and not for doctrinal principles. Those who do not have leaders create followers. It is not the same thing to be a follower as it is to be a leader. They create followers to fill a gap and to collect the votes that are left over and that are undecided as a result of the turmoil.

You cannot lose your leadership function, because that is your duty and your commitment to the communities you represent or will represent. We will continue to coordinate your work to benefit the various communities. Communities will continue having leaders and needs, and those needs will be met.

We want to reiterate that we must all contribute our work and that our mission is to work for the homeland and to meet our destiny. Our destiny is not only a sovereign but an economic liberation. The FDP will respect everybody on our path toward that destiny and, by the same token, the FDP defends its right to be respected. [applause]

Ozores Confirms Resignation of PCC's Gianelli

PA3103235789 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2319 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] In remarks to the local media this afternoon, Carlos Ozores, Panamanian representative to the Panama Canal Commission [PCC] Board of Directors, confirmed the resignation of PCC Board of Directors President William Gianelli:

[Begin recording] [Ozores] He presented his resignation as an appointee of the previous administration. We learned that his resignation was accepted and that he will be replaced. We do not know when. At the next meeting, in July, he will probably no longer be president.

[Reporter] Do you view the new situation that has emerged because of this resignation as a new aggression against Panama?

[Ozores] No, not an aggression. I view it as a new hostile attitude that does not help at all. Let us hope this situation will change soon, because the Panama Canal is a very delicate pathway that must not be involved in the political differences of the two countries.

[Reporter] What is Panama's position in the face of a possible toll increase?

[Ozores] When the topic has been brought up on previous occasions, we have abstained from voting on the issue. This time, if we had participated in a meeting on the topic, we would have adopted the same attitude. [end recording]

U.S. Blamed for Drug Arrest Failure

PA0104014089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0008 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Panama City, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The FDP today held the United States responsible for the failure of an operation in which Panamanian authorities were to have arrested alleged Medellin Cartel "cashier" Eduardo Martinez in Panama City. Martinez found out that he was going to be arrested through a television news report.

Lieutenant Colonel Nivaldo Madrinan, chief of the Panamanian National Investigations Department (DENI), told ACAN-EFE that there was a "lack of coordination" in the operation to arrest Martinez, because a news report on the operation was released in the United States on 29 March, just before he was to have been arrested.

Madrinan explained that a news conference giving details on the operation was held in Washington and that "almost the entire" news conference, which was broadcast live on television, "was watched by the fugitive at the bank" where Panamanian authorities planned to capture him.

DENI Chief Madrinan denied that FDP Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega was involved in Martinez' escape, as high-ranking U.S. authorities intimated yesterday.

Madrinan added that the operation to capture Martinez was subjected to last-minute changes, and he said that while the Panamanian police were surrounding the bank at which Martinez was going to be arrested, the alleged drug trafficker was watching a television news report in which U.S. authorities announced the success of the operation. Martinez escaped shortly after that.

According to Washington dispatches, U.S. authorities had "reliable" information on Martinez' arrest in Panama on 29 March, but, a little while later, learned that Martinez "had escaped."

Madrinan made statements to ACAN-EFE after holding a news conference at the Panamanian Attorney General's Office, where Panamanian authorities revealed details on the operation to capture Martinez, which was coordinated by covert U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents and the FDP.

After Martinez' unexpected escape, Panamanian authorities arrested four Colombians and one Panamanian, including two local bank employees, who were involved in laundering drug money. The others had been accompanying Martinez until his escape.

Those arrested are William Guarin Pulencio, general manager of Banco de Occidente, Panama Branch; Carmen Clara Garcia de Paredes, Banco de Occidente operations manager, also a Panamanian; German Flores and William Rueda Perez, two Colombian pilots; and Alonso Correa Acevedo, also a Colombian.

According to Panamanian Attorney General Carlos Villalaz, the authorities searched for Martinez "exhaustively yesterday," but without success.

Madrinan told ACAN-EFE that "taking into account the amounts of money that they (drug traffickers) handle, I doubt that Martinez is still in Panama." Madrinan said, however, that the search is continuing.

Panamanian authorities will begin a formal investigation of Banco de Occidente, which is a branch of a Colombian financial institution, to determine whether the bank was engaged in money-laundering activities.

U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh on 29 March accused Banco de Occidente, Panama Branch, and Banco de Occidente in Colombia of handling funds from drug trafficking operations.

Washington reported that 127 people were arrested by covert U.S. agents in the operation and that half a ton of cocaine and $45 million in cash, in addition to jewels and real estate, were confiscated.

Argentina

Economic Officials Resign, Appointments Made

Sourrouille Resigns

PY3103191589 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1840 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Mar (DYN)—Today at approximately 1500, Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille reportedly tendered his verbal resignation to President Raul Alfonsin in a meeting at the Olivos residence.

Reliable sources said Sourrouille conveyed to the president his desire to leave his post, but it is not known what the president decided.

The sources said that, if asked by the president, Sourrouille will stay in his post beyond 15 May.

Pugliese New Economy Minister

PY3103204189 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2033 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Mar (TELAM)—At 1730 today presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez confirmed that Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille has resigned and announced that Juan Carlos Pugliese, president of the Chamber of Deputies, will be the new economy minister.

Other Officials Resign

PY3103221889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2200 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Mar (NA)—Finance Secretary Mario Brodersohn tonight confirmed his resignation.

Economic Coordination Secretary Adolfo Canitrot, Domestic Trade Secretary Carlos Bonvecchi and Central Bank President Jose Luis Machinea have also resigned.

Brodersohn said they resigned at 0830 today "to give a free hand to President Raul Alfonsin."

Holiday, New Bank President

PY0204204489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1835 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Apr (TELAM)—Economy Minister Juan Carlos Pugliese has confirmed that there will be a bank and money exchange holiday tomorrow in Argentina.

On leaving the Olivos presidential residence, Pugliese said that he will be installed as economy minister on Tuesday and that Enrique Garcia Vazquez will be the new Central Bank president.

Pugliese confirmed that Ernesto Figueras, agriculture and fishing secretary; Murat Eurnekian, industry and foreign trade secretary; and Jorge Gandara, secretary for economic administration, will retain their posts.

Menem Addresses Crowd on Falklands Day

PY0304034589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2319 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Merlo, 2 Apr (TELAM)—Carlos Menem, presidential candidate of the Justicialist Popular Unity Front (FREJUPOL), today said that "no one should attack the military institutions" and charged that "an attempt is being made to de-Malvinize the Republic of Argentina." He added that "a country with disorganized Armed Forces and a declining currency is heading toward a final collapse."

Menem, his wife Zulema Yoma, and Buenos Aires Governor Antonio Cafiero attended a mass given by Mercedes Bishop Emilio Ognenovich at the Lujan church to honor those who fell during the Malvinas war. Menem was also the keynote speaker at two rallies staged by the FREJUPO in Lujan and Merlo. [passage omitted]

Speaking at a rally at a downtown intersection in Merlo to a crowd that stretched over four blocks on Libertador Avenue, Menem asked for a minute of silence for those who fell in the Malvinas. He then said that "no one should attack the military institutions" and added that "an attempt is being made to de-Malvinize the Republic of Argentina."

Menem added: "We do not want war, but we will make our claims heard in every international forum." Responding to Caputo, Menem said that he did not study in the Sorbonne and that, if elected, he will investigate the actions of the current administration. He said that an investigation should be conducted to find out "who knocked on the barracks doors in 1976."

Menem said that "no one should talk of fear of Justicialism any more," and he requested that the tone of the electoral campaign be lowered. He reiterated his proposal to create a Ministry for Youth Affairs and reaffirmed his belief that men and women should have equal rights.

Bolivia

Paz Estenssoro Declines Invitations to Summits

PY3103025189 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0116 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] La Paz, 30 Mar (EFE)—Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro has declined invitations to participate in the presidential "summits" of the Amazon Pact and the Andean Pact, scheduled, respectively, for May 1989 in the Brazilian city of Manaus and May 1989 in Cartagena (Colombia).

This announcement was made today by Minister Secretary General of the Presidency Walter Zuleta Roncal, who said that a busy presidential agenda and the holding of presidential elections, which have been scheduled for 7 May, have prompted Paz Estenssoro to decide not to leave Bolivia.

The meeting of the Amazon Pact countries—including Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Suriname, and Guyana—will be held on 6 May to review the ecological needs and the development of the Amazon Pact countries, according to Brazilian Deputy Foreign Minister [title as received] Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima, who came to Bolivia early this week to invite Paz Estenssoro to the meeting.

The Amazon is being described as one of the world's largest flora and fauna reserves and as earth's lungs, according to the representative from Brazil, the country sponsoring the presidential summit scheduled for May.

Elsewhere, the five presidents of the Andean Pact countries will hold a meeting in Cartagena in late May to mark the 20th anniversary of the Andean Pact. Regarding this anniversary, Bolivian Vice President Julio Garret Ayllon last Monday confirmed Bolivia's political decision to pursue this integration process. He said: "United, we will be able to make progress; divided we will reach the year 2000 even more dominated."

Garret added that the foreign debt and drug trafficking problems, which can make the Andean countries politically and economically uncontrollable with unpredictable social consequences, will only be solved through joint actions within the context of the Andean Pact.

United Left Offices in Sucre Attacked

PY0104024489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2346 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] La Paz, 31 Mar (EFE)—United Left Front (IU) leaders have reported a terrorist attack against an IU office in the city of Sucre, 740 km south of La Paz. They warned that actions like these destabilize the current electoral process.

A communique issued by leaders of the IU front—including the Free Bolivia Movement, the Bolivian Communist Party, the Patriotic Convergence Axis, the Movement Toward Socialism, and the Socialist Party One—asks the government authorities to investigate the attack, perpetrated early yesterday morning. The offices were seriously damaged.

The IU blames the attack on groups linked to former President Luis Garcia Meza, who has been declared in default and in contempt of court and is now at large. Garcia has been charged with the theft of the "Che" Guevara and Harry "Pombo" Villegas diaries.

Garcia Meza is facing Supreme Court trial for malfeasance in office. He has been charged with human rights violations and economic crimes during his administration (1980-81).

About 20 terrorist attacks were perpetrated against several political party offices 2 weeks ago. Leaders of the political parties involved attributed these attacks to groups linked to Garcia Meza.

Brazil

Sarney Rejects Debt Swap Idea for Amazon Region

PY0104011589 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] President Sarney today told a delegation of U.S. senators that the Brazilian Government is not interested whatsoever in swapping part of the Brazilian foreign debt to finance ecological projects in the Amazon region.

According to Sarney, Brazil will not accept any type of pressure. He said that to combine the debt issue with the ecological issue is tantamount to creating an even greater problem.

Government Fails To Meet IMF Targets

PY3103030589 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Mar 89 p 30

[Text] Brasilia—The Brazilian Government has announced that it has failed to comply with targets agreed upon with the IMF last year and that, therefore, it will have to request a waiver in its 1989 program. The targets for the next agreement will be discussed by Central Bank experts and an IMF mission currently in Brasilia.

In 1988, the target the government failed to meet was that set for the nominal deficit (the deficit figure that includes monetary correction). This target, initially set at 36.6 percent of the GDP, finally reached 45.1 percent. The deficit measured in operational terms (which excludes monetary correction) was set at 4 percent, and ended up at 3.96 percent.

According to the head of the Central Bank Economic Department, Silvio Rodrigues Alves, the operational deficit (adjusted for monetary correction) this year should be greater than last year's. He said that if the IMF mission accepts higher interest rates at this moment of transition in the economic policy, it will also have to accept higher expenditures on account of the public sector indebtedness. He said: "The consequence of this will be a higher public deficit expressed in operational terms (adjusted for monetary correction)." He added that "it will be impossible to have a zero deficit and the IMF will have to accept this."

The agreement with the IMF in 1988 provided for the disbursement to Brazil of $1.5 billion. Of this total, $470 million was disbursed in October 1988. The disbursement of $40 million was scheduled for release in November, but was not released because, according to Silvio Rodriguez Alves, "inflation did not follow the projections made and so the deficit nominal target (not adjusted for inflation) was overshot." The 1989 and 1990 disbursements, plus the $40 million mentioned above, will be made as soon as Brazil reaches an agreement on this year's economic program with the IMF.

Interior Minister Launches Amazon Program
PY3103124789 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The Brazilian Government's concern over the country's social, ecological, and development problems was reiterated today by Interior Minister Joao Alves, who launched the Program for the Development of the Amazon Border Regions.

When launching the program, Minister Joao Alves confirmed the government's concern over the country's social, ecological, and development problems:

[Begin Alves recording] We are a developing country. Unfortunately we still have unemployment, misery, illiteracy, and hunger in the country. In addition, we have the mandatory task of creating 1.7 million jobs a year to employ the youths who graduate each year. [end recording]

Military Household Chief Bayma Denys, who is also the program's coordinator and head of the (SABEN) [Secretaria de Assistencia e Bem Estar de Menores] Children's Welfare and Assistance Secretariat] pointed out the need to counteract the Amazon region's geographic isolation, epidemic illnesses, and lack of a local socioeconomic structure.

[Begin Bayma Denys recording] We would like to point out, however, that the program will only become a reality if it receives the decisive support of the National Congress. To make it come true, the Congress must approve the budget proposal to be submitted by the Planning Secretariat, SEPLAN. [end recording]

Minister Bayma Denys also said the border dwellers give daily examples of integration. He said the border dwellers are a source of solutions, not problems. By supporting the border dwellers, we will be fulfilling national desire to show that the borders should be a point of contact with our neighbors, not a dividing line. This desire requires that our borders be a line that unites the Brazilian people with their neighbors.

Japan To Grant $1.7 Billion in Credits
OW2903135189 Tokyo KYODO in English 0943 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Tokyo, March 29 KYODO—Japan will extend 1.7 billion dollars in new official credits to Brazil to help reconstruct the country's debt-ridden economy, Foreign Ministry sources said Wednesday.

That pledge will be conveyed to Brazil by a Japanese Government mission to visit there from Thursday [30 March] to Saturday, the ministry sources said.

The new credits, consisting of 1.2 billion dollars in loans through the Export-Import Bank of Japan and 500 million dollars in loans from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), will be used to finance various agricultural and industrial projects.

Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita pledged to give more than 1 billion dollars in new credits when he met Brazilian President Jose Sarney on February 23. Sarney attended the February 24 state funeral for Emperor Hirohito, now called Showa.

The seven-member mission, headed by Jutaro Sakamoto, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Central and South American Affairs Bureau, will meet Sarney, Foreign Minister Roberto Abreu Sodre and Finance Minister Mailson Nobrega during the three-day stay in Brazil.

Religious Leaders Oppose Repayment of Debt
PY0104162689 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0448 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 31 Mar (TELAM)—Leaders and dignataries of the Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, and Reformed churches of Brazil have opposed the repayment of Brazil's foreign debt, which amounts to $115 billion.

In a document released in Rio de Janeiro, the religious leaders state that "the foreign debt should not be repaid, because it has already been repaid, and because the continuation of payments will only serve to further aggravate the exploitation of the suffering Brazilian people." The document was released during a meeting with the presidential candidates, which was attended by former Socialist Governor Leonel Brizola and leftist Deputy Luiz Inacio "Lula" da

Brazilian Communist Party Announces Ticket
PY0104002989 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 31 Mar 89 p 3

[Text] Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) President Sergio Arouca, a doctor and a public health specialist, has agreed to become Roberto Freire's running mate. Roberto Freire is the Brazilian Communist Party's (PCB) presidential candidate.

The appointment of Arouca is designed to attract the intellectual and scientific community to the PCB slate. The PCB is the first party to nominate a ticket.

As a candidate, Arouca plans to include in the presidential race agenda issues concerning health and scientific and technological development as well as the drafting of a national program.

According to Arouca, the PCB candidacy will become stronger and the PCB performance will put an end to the prejudice against the communists. He said that not issues other than political will be discussed in the campaign, and emphasized that the PCB has a government program, including proposals for the economy, Brazilian Indians, health, women, and foreign debt problems. Silva.

Stroessner's Son Leaves Exile Residence

PY0104162389 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 1 Apr 89 p 7

[Text] Curitiba, 31 Mar (EFE)—It has been reported in this city that Colonel Gustavo Stroessner, son of former Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner, has left the mansion where he has been exiled with his father on the Brazilian seacoast. His current whereabouts are unknown.

Col Stroessner's sudden departure coincides with an arrest warrant issued against him by the Paraguayan authorities. Stroessner is accused of corruption and of acquiring wealth through unlawful means.

Gustavo Stroessner has accompanied his father since the beginning of their exile in Brazil, which began on 5 February 1989 following a military coup headed by General Andres Rodriguez.

One of the theories most often repeated by the press is that Col Stroessner has fled to avoid extradition to Paraguay.

According to the same source, Stroessner left the mansion early Thursday morning accompanied by his wife, Maria Eugenia Heickel, in a green "Caravan" car with license plate number BS3443. He was accompanied by two federal agents, while a third federal agent followed them on a motorcycle to prevent reporters from following him.

It has also been reported that Stroessner and his wife, Maria Eugenia, were carrying two suitcases, and that not even the federal police, who are charged with providing security, were aware of the couple's destination. The prevailing reports are that Col Stroessner fled to prevent being extradited to Paraguay to face legal proceedings initiated against him by the Paraguayan courts. He is accused of corruption and acquiring wealth through unlawful means.

Colombia

8 Soldiers, 4 Policemen Die in ELN Clashes

PA0104220389 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2101 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Bogota, 1 Apr (DPA)—Colombian authorities report that eight soldiers and four policemen died today during clashes with rebels in various parts of the country. It is believed that eight soldiers traveling in an official vehicle in the northern Cesar Department were ambushed by members of the Army of National Liberation (ELN), who planted powerful bombs along the road.

Meanwhile, two policemen died during an attack carried out by unidentified assailants in Amalfi Municipality, Antioquia Department. Two more policemen were killed during clashes with rebels in Bolivar Department.

The ELN, considered to be the most radical of the armed groups operating in Colombia, has recently intensified its operations, following the kidnapping by one of the ELN groups of Senator Felix Salcedo Baldion of the ruling Liberal Party and reporters Santiago Linan and Freddy Parada in the northeastern city of Cucuta, along the Colombian-Venezuelan border.

Several ELN communiques have indicated that the group's purpose is to continue the armed struggle, even though the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board has asked the ELN to consider reaching a cease-fire with the government.

Reportage on ELN Kidnappings, Responses

Liberal Senator Salcedo

PA3103173589 Paris AFP in Spanish 1714 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Bogota, 31 Mar (AFP)—The police have reported that a commando unit of the Castroist National Liberation Army today kidnapped Colombian Liberal Party Senator Felix Salcedo Baldion.

Two men abducted Salcedo from his apartment in Cucuta, on the Venezuelan border.

Salcedo, a senator from Santander in the northeast part of the country, is a member of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee.

Senator Baldion, Two Reporters

PA3103180989 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Three men have been kidnapped in the eastern part of Colombia. Liberal Senator Felix Salcedo Baldion was kidnapped by the Camilist Front of the self-styled Army of National Liberation, which announced the kidnapping in a communique.

Two reporters, Santiago Linan of EL ESPECTADOR and Freddy Parada of Radio Cucutena, have disappeared from the capital of North Santander. So far, there whereabouts are unknown.

ELN Issues Communique

PA0204022789 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0120 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] The Army of National Liberation [ELN], in a second communique issued today, said that it is holding Congressmen Felix Salcedo Baldion and Gustavo Silva. Meanwhile, the governor of North Santander said that he is ready to talk with the guerrillas to reach peace agreements.

In the communique, the ELN Camilist Front stated that Senator Felix Salcedo was not kidnapped, but instead he was invited to participate in the release of Representative Gustavo Silva, who has been held by the ELN for more than 3 months. In the communique, the subversive group accuses the Santander governor of not cooperating in the negotiations for the release of Congressman Silva Gomez.

For his part, Governor Eduardo Assad Elcure said today that the government has not precluded holding a dialogue and, in fact, is ready to establish contacts with all the rebel groups to secure peace in Santander.

[Begin Assad Elcure recording] We are prepared to create a commission to define the procedures for holding talks with the ELN or with any other group that wants to take advantage of the democratic opening. [end recording]

The same communique indicates that newsmen Freddy Parada and Santiago Linan, who were also kidnapped, will be released in the next few hours with a message for the government.

M-19's Chalita Denies Disagreement With Pizarro

PA0104015389 Paris AFP in Spanish 0053 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Bogota, 31 Mar (AFP)—The leading figure of an alleged disagreement within the leftist guerrilla 19 April Movement [M-19], which is involved in a peace process with the Colombian Government, denied the alleged division within the guerrilla movement.

Marcos Chalita, M-19 commander in charge of the southern part of Colombia—who was wounded this week during a clash with the Colombian Army that occurred despite the truce declared by the M-19—expressed his support for the dialogue with the government promoted by M-19 Commander Carlos Pizarro.

In statements to Colombian Radio Cadena Caracol, Chalita said he does not disagree with Pizarro.

Chalita explained he is following Pizarro's orders by remaining in his regular area instead of moving to Peace Village, where most of the M-19 members are located now.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), which disagrees with the independent manner in which the M-19 has conducted the peace talks, has asserted that the M-19 is experiencing a serious internal division because of Pizarro's talks with the government.

Chalita attributed the reports of divisiveness to "groups interested in torpedoing the agreements between the M-19 General Command and the government."

Colombian, Venezuelan Border Agreement

PA0104004589 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 29 Mar 89 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Text of declaration signed by President Virgilio Barco and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez in Urena, Tachira Department, Venezuela, on 28 March]

[Text] Urena Declaration:

Meeting between Colombian President Virgilio Barco and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez at the General Francisco de Paula Santander Bridge, 28 March 1989

Colombian President Virgilio Barco and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, meeting on 28 March 1989, at the General Francisco de Paula Santander bridge over the Tachira River, after appropriate reciprocal consultations,

RESOLVE:

First: To appoint the following people as members of the commissions referred to in the joint declaration signed in Caracas on 3 February 1989:

A. As members of the Permanent Conciliation Commission established under the 1939 Treaty of Nonaggression, Conciliation, Arbitration and Judicial Settlement,

For Colombia:

Former Colombian President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen and Diego Cordovez, Ecuadoran foreign affairs minister.

For Venezuela:

Rene de Sola, president of the Supreme Court of Justice, and former Mexican President Luis Echeverria.

After appropriate consultations, the Colombian and Venezuelan heads of state agreed to appoint former Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez as the fifth member and president of the aforementioned Permanent Conciliation Commission.

B. As high commissioners in charge of identifying the principal issues to be discussed by both countries and formulating proposals that address and solve those problems,

For Colombia:

Pedro Gomez Barrero and Carlos Holguin Holguin.

For Venezuela:

Rafael Pizani and Isidro Morales Paul.

The high commissioners may be accompanied at their meetings by advisers, duly accredited by each government.

C. On the commissions in charge of preparing and studying the agreements and treaties pertaining to economic and social development in the border areas,

For Colombia:

Enrique Vargas Ramirez, chairman; Clemancia Forero Ucros; Guillermo Fernandez de Soto, executive secretary; Jaime Garcia Parra; Alvaro Araujo Noguera; Argelino Duran Quintero; Dario Meza; Enrique Danies; Alvaro Villamizar; Jaime Perez Lopez; Diego Montana Cuellar; and Fabio Torrijos Quintero.

For Venezuela:

Ramon J. Velasquez, chairman; Jean Francois Pulvenio, executive secretary; Valmore Acevedo; Omar Baralt; Teofana Camargo; Elias Castro; Guillermo Colmenares Finol; Fernando Chumaceiro; Andres Duarte Vivas; Hector Jurado Toro; Alberto Lizarralde; and Pompeyo Marquez.

Second: The National Commissions for Border Affairs, assisted by the pertinent ministeries and by other national institutions, will be in charge of the studies and agreements referring to the movement of people, goods, and vehicles, the economic integration of border areas, joint urban development planning, and the use and conservation of natural resources. The commissions will give preference to the following projects:

A. Electric power generation and navigation in the Orinoco River in the Atures and Maipures rapids area.

B. In-depth exploration of the pre-Cambrian formation known as the "Guayana Shield," located in the border area between Brazil, Colombia, and Venezuela. To this end, the Foreign Affairs ministers of both countries will send an invitation to the Brazilian Government to take part in this project of mutual interest.

C. Interconnection of Colombian and Venezuelan electric power systems, especially in the border areas.

D. Growth and interconnection of urban areas in Cucuta and Villa del Rosario in Colombia, and San Antonio and Urena in Venezuela, to achieve orderly growth within a master plan for the infrastructure of public and social services. The study will cover the creation of a binational metropolitan area for industrial and commercial development, and may include other municipalities.

E. The agroindustrial sugar program for the North Santander Department in Colombia, and Tachira State in Venezuela.

Upon completion of the essential technical and prefeasibility studies, the National Border Commissions will prepare the corresponding draft agreements and treaties and will submit them for the consideration of both governments.

The Colombian and Venezuelan presidents reiterate the adherence of both countries to the principles espoused by Simon Bolivar, which have served as a source of inspiration for their friendly and progressive relations, and they proclaim their decision to continue fostering the strengthening of democracy, freedom, and social justice. Virgilio Barco President of the Republic of Colombia

Carlos Andres Perez President of the Republic of Venezuela

Paraguay

Reportage on Rodriguez' Colorado Nomination

Vows To Fulfill Promises

PY0104185489 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television in Spanish 1553 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Interview with Provisional President General Andres Rodriguez by unidentified reporters in the dining room of Colorado Party headquarters in Asuncion—live]

[Text] [Rodriguez] I am pleased to be with all of you.

[Reporter] Thank you. You are very kind.

[Rodriguez] All I can say is that I am very happy to see this marvelous display of fervor by members of the Colorado Party. I see here genuine representatives, illustrious conventioneers who have come to participate in a debate designed to strengthen one of the basic principles of my proclamation: democracy in this country.

[Reporter] Mr President, will the promises you made in your proclamation be fulfilled?

[Rodriguez] My son, you can see that these promises are being fulfilled little by little, and if God helps me, we will fulfill all of them.

[Reporter] Thank you very much.

Nominated Colorado Candidate

PY0204002489 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 2355 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Report from the National Sports Council auditorium on Colorado Party convention by reporter Eligio Farina—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] the delegates have just nominated General Andres Rodriguez as presidential candidate of the Colorado Party by acclamation. Listen to the Colorado song, which is now being played. [passage omitted]

Accepts Party Nomination

PY0204033389 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 0216 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Speech by Provisional President Andres Rodriguez to Colorado Party convention to accept party's presidential nomination; at National Sports Council auditorium in Asuncion—live]

[Text] Mr President of this Convention of the Colorado Party, Conventioneers, Members of the Republican National Association Government Board, distinguished and appreciated fellow party members [applause]:

I have come here following my conscience to appear before this special Colorado Party Convention, deeply moved and, the same as you, with my thoughts turned toward our fatherland. I come before this assembly to give my consent to your hopes and to your decision of nominating me for a post in this new political period, which has long been awaited by the entire nation [applause].

With humility and a renewed spirit of service, I accept the high honor [applause] of being the presidential candidate for the Colorado Party [applause] in the general elections of 1 May 1989. I accept your nomination fully aware of the responsibility I will assume, and I also feel motivated by the unswerving determination to conduct through the appropriate means, steadily and without haste, the attainment of the basic objectives stated in my proclamation of 3 February 1989 [applause]. On that date, I pledged before the entire Paraguayan nation my word as a soldier, and I now sense the real possibility of fulfilling my pledge with the support of this powerful civil force, represented by the Colorado Party [applause]. With the rectitude and experience of its enlightened leaders and the good sense of its generous caudilloes of the interior and the capital of the Republic we can accomplish the task.

Together we can address as soon as possible the task of calling a constituent assembly in an atmosphere of an effective, broad multiparty participation. [applause] [Rodriguez responds the cheers: Very well, very well, thank you]

This constituent assembly will study and draft an amendment to the Constitution to strengthen our diplomatic principles and to promote the full enforcement of all human and political rights. [applause]

If this happens, as I truly hope, we will do a great service to our fatherland, a service that would be comparable only to those glorious events that have gone down in our history. [applause]

I have absolute confidence in the democratic calling of the Colorado Party, in that which Bernardino Caballero invariably showed at a time of great difficulties, in a period when there was just enough time and space to heal the wounds of a nation stricken by misfortune.

General Bernardino Caballero, the founder of the party, whose illustrious memory is a guiding figure for this convention, showed exceptional civic qualities after displaying great courage in the battlefield. [applause]

Caballero was faithful to our national values and was able to overcome the difficult postwar period with admirable judiciousness, with calm prudence, and above all, with a great, unwavering love of our fatherland. [applause] Fellow party members, my military honor leads me to state once again that the 3 February event was not designed to satisfy nefarious interests, let alone personal ambitions. That action was taken in response to the unanimous claim of the people, and it was not [applause] and it was not [Rodriguez repeats himself] directed against the civilian population. On the contrary, the action was conceived and executed to restore our sense of creative freedom.

This is why we set out to achieve, as a first objective, the full, complete unification of the Colorado Party in the government; [applause] thus, restoring to the ruling political party all those rights it had been stripped of and which prevented it from discharging its significant role. [applause]

The government that was to emerge after the ouster of the autocratic government needed the firm support of this association of free men, which was unduly usurped by an arrogant, voracious clique. [applause, cheers]

It simply became imperative to restore justice and legality.

To this end, and on this occasion, I want to pay a heartfelt tribute to the youths whose blood was shed on the altars of liberty. I also want to note the important mission reserved for the Paraguayan youth and women [applause], in whom we place renewed hopes for the future of this noble and heroic Paraguayan fatherland. [applause]

We cannot make any projections for the near future without thinking of the inexorable change of generations. Therefore, finding the appropriate channels for the interests and the noble intentions of young souls must be a preferential and firm concern. [applause]

The most cherished treasure of a nation is the liberating force of a moderate youth who do not seek to possess property, do not have an eagerness for domination, and do not resort to suicidal violence. [applause]

Mr President, conventioneers, and fellow party members: I am profoundly grateful for the undeserved honor just bestowed upon me by this convention and I am placing in the hands of Divine Providence the happy outcome of your efforts. [applause]

Should I win the 1 May elections, I, in the exercise of my term of office, will comply with the objectives stated in my proclamation of 3 February. [applause] Then, as the most precious reward of my life, I will honorably transfer the sash of this lofty office to the citizen who will succeed me [shouts, applause].

Gentlemen I believe it is worth repeating and will do so emphatically: At the end of my term in office, as the most precious reward of my life, I will then be in the position to honorably tranfer the sash of this lofty office to the citizen who will succeed me as president of the Republic of Paraguay [shouts, applause].

I will conclude by using myself the words pronounced on 11 September 1887 by the nation's forefather and soldier Bernardino Caballero, to whose memory I bow my head reverently. The founder of our party then said: We do not come to unfurl a banner of hatred, but to raise the sacred banner of unity that can broadly shelter all men who participate in our sincere intentions. I hate divisions, which can separate us in opposed factions, and would like for this great party to be a link of concord and fraternity among all of the Paraguayan fatherland. Thank you very much. [long applause]

Chaves' Convention Report

PY0204235989 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 2040 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Address to the Colorado Party convention by Colorado Party President Juan Ramon Chaves at the National Sports Council auditorium in Asuncion—live]

[Text] Mr Blas N. Riquelme, president of the Colorado Party convention; honorable delegates:

In compliance with Article 9, Paragraph 1 of the party statute, I have the honor on behalf of the Provisional Government Board of submitting for your consideration this "Minor Report" on board activities from 3 February to 31 March 1989. [applause]

Since 3 February to 31 March, we have tackled the reorganization of the Colorado Party Government Board, which had been left disoriented and in disarray by the "militants." [applause]

Without injustice, reprisal, or offending anyone, we started our task with prudence and responsibility.

I first called a group of accountants to audit the previous government board's account book. This Auditors' Commission is carrying out its work to clarify many flaws for the new Government Board that will be elected today.

An inventory has been made of the party's properties and assets in order to determine their condition and legal situation.

The Provisional Government Board has corrected some deficiencies in the party organization. For instance, many party chapters were abandoned by its members, and we had to appoint acting authorities. Many thought that we acted arrogantly, but that is not so. We have discharged our duty impartially and honestly at a revolutionary moment.

In order to clarify matters, I will tell many critics of the politico-partisan situation that the current political authorities have at no time acted as throwbacks of the policies followed by former President Alfredo Stroessner.

On the contrary, those who led the revolution and the Colorados who are now on the party's government board can assert that the Colorado Party will never support anti-democratic positions, let alone support or mirror the policies of former dictator Stroessner.

The Colorados who support the revolution do not exclude anyone from participating. All our fellow party members have the right to be actors at this time, the only condition being that they are capable and above all good Colorados.

The traditionalists have stood up to the dictatorship, but were prudent in that campaign. [appaluse] On 1 August 1987, in front of the party headquarters on 25 de Mayo Street, the people could watch the system of violence implemented by Stroessnerism in action. When Stroessnerism was in full force, we, the Colorados, sought a political consensus in 7 party rallies and meetings in 68 towns and cities. In the aforementioned campaign, we mobilized 750,000 Colorados. All of them clamored for a constitutional regime of civic liberties, shouting the slogan "democracy yes, dictatorship no." [applause]

What had happened in the ranks of Stroessnerism will not happen in our midst. Even though we participated in the government of President Stroessner at one time, that does not mean that we will continue with its bad policies. That is why we confronted Stroessnerism in its own

redoubt. In a revolution such as the one we are experiencing, it is unacceptable to bring up the name of one or more personalities to foolishly allege that we are still applying the formulas of Stroessnerism.

In the process of this revolution, the party Government Board has been working hard to meet the current political needs. Consequently, several articles of Electoral Law No 886 have been reformed. Thanks to these reforms, several parties, old and new, have registered with the Central Electoral Junta. The Christian Democratic Party will participate in the upcoming general elections, other political parties are preparing to participate, and the Electoral Law will be overhauled.

Likewise, the government is enforcing all freedoms so that the citizens and the political parties can express themselves without any restriction. To sum it up, we have created an atmosphere of freedom for the nation's political manifestations, without exclusions or objections. This climate of freedom that pervades the country has been created by the profound democratic convictions of the main actors of the revolution. Everyone can speak, come and go as they please, and express their opinion vocally or in the press. Fear has shrivelled and freedom has blossomed.

I call on the forefathers of the Colorado Party so that this banner of freedom we have hoisted can stay flying above. Should others try to bring it down, we will stand in their way with all our strength to smash that attempt. All political parties will participate in the 1 May elections with total freedom, and, working together, we shall see that democracy is consolidated. This task, I must say, will only be completed if we all go to the polls in order to move forward in that direction. I want to let the conventioneers know that next Monday the State Council will approve a request from the executive branch to extend the period of registration of voters for 10 more days. [applause]

The Colorado Party, after a unanimous vote by the members of the Government Board, has decided to support General Andres Rodriguez as candidate for the nation's Presidency. [applause] So, we must know who Gen Andres Rodriguez is. Very well, he is a Paraguayan citizen, a good solider, and a good Colorado. He has democratic convictions, [applause] that means that he is champion of an understanding among all Paraguayans to ensure days of peace and progress for the nation. He is not an heir of any former president and is not committed to dogmas contrary to those of the Colorado Party. Gen Rodriguez is judicious in his decisionmaking. This psychological trait guarantees that he does not take actions foolhardily, but reasonably and correctly. [applause]

At the Military School, he learned to be fair and to love his fatherland. To these personal qualities, it should be added that he has learned to become a Colorado and to become, in time, an actor in the nation's politics. In my view, no member of the military should be denied commitment to a cause or the love for a political party of his preference. General De Gaulle was a military hero and a good politician in the ranks of his party. The alleged incompatibility between a military career and political activism is absurd. Eisenhower was a brillant soldier who later went on to become an effective President of the United States of America for the Republican Party. [applause]

In March of this year, the Colorado Party was strengthened by the incorporation of groups of Colorados, such as the Colorado Popular Movement, the Popular Movement for Convergence, the National Association in Exile and Resistence, and the Ethical and Doctrinary Movement. All thse groups merged into a single movement; that is, the Colorado Party. [applause] From now on, the traditionalist faction of the Colorado Party is dissolved, because the dictatorship has been defeated. [applause] The unity of all these movements is the basis of a good policy and I call on all of you not to fall in any sectarian deviation. Sectarianism only brings about confrontation and, consequently, the division of a political party.

The assemblies at the party chapters were held in a climate of absolute freedom of opinion. Consequently, in some party chapters there were more than one ticket vying for election, but all their members have accepted the results of the polls. On the other hand, a single list ran for election in 200 party chapters, but at no time, was any of them or any member of a party chapter, pressured by us to elect the grassroot authorities. The single ticket was chosen by the own will of the local party members.

The press has published some false reports regarding the single tickets. The Government Board has not exerted any pressure for the election of local party chapter authorities, nor has anyone resorted to violence to that effect. The Government Board has approved 226 party chapter assemblies; 12 party chapter assemblies were suspended for justified reasons. For these 12 party chapters, dates for assemblies will be set after 1 May 1989.

The Colorado Party Government Board has submitted a note to the party convention, appointing Division General Andres Rodriguez as presidential candidate. All of you must vote freely. By voting for Gen Rodriguez you will be voting for democracy. Likewise, many conventioneers will introduce at this convention a list of candidates for the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. The conventioneers will vote freely.

The ability to set the country on the way to democracy will depend on us and on yourselves.

When a political party raises the banner of a democratic representative system of government, it can be asserted that such a party is well directed, has strong ideals, and is especially free to give and take advice. Before and after the dictatorship's robbery on 1 August 1987, the Colorado Party has supported and is clearly supporting democracy as a way of life and as a political system of government.

Our democracy does not merely have a political side; it is realistic. Our party does not remain static; it creates new instituitons as required at a given time.

Our preaching both on the rostrum and through the press advocates the need to amend the Constitution. These amendments must include the creation of the post of vice president, the abolishment of the council of state, the condition that the state of siege must be declared by Congress and not by the executive branch [applause], the condition that the president and the vice president of the Republic cannot be reelected [applause], the full enforcement of all the human rights consecrated by the Constitution, and the establishment of precise regulations for an appropriate agrarian reform and its financing.

Through agrarian reform, we will place the Paraguayan people—the farmers—in a more honorable position. We need to do this to strengthen our democracy. A career for judges and the doctrinal independence of the judicial branch are goals that cannot be postponed. Amendments that must include the drafting of a general law to organize the self-supported agencies and control the decentralized public enterprises and the reform of the secondary school curriculum, which is a failure. [applause]

It is necessary to privatize many enterprises. This must not be done on a whim, but reasonably. It is necessary to draft a new penitentiary system and build new prisons for the accused and convicts. It is necessary to conduct a complete study of economic, monetary, social, and religous matters that will be important issues of general interest to all Paraguayans.

When I was installed at the government board on 4 February 1989, I ordered a group of auditors to audit our party's accounting books and the accounting books of the previous board. I asked for a complete financial report before taking charge of the existing funds. It was not possible to complete the work. However, we are presenting for the consideration of this convention the accounting books and the pertinent documents in general.

For better control of the board's expenses, I have appointed two experts who will work with the administratitive office and with the accounting office.

I am putting forward for the consideration of this convention this very brief minor report and the balance of accounts for the financial period from 4 February to 31 March 1989.

I hope that the members elected to our party's new government board will have the virtue of struggling together with the Colorado people for the good of the fatherland.

That's all. [applause]

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